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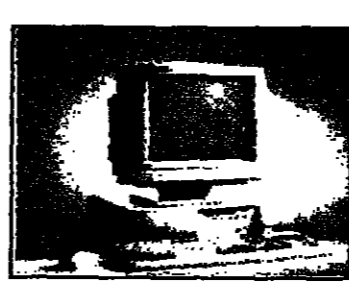
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Likud awaits Netanyahu return

By SARAH HONIG

A subdued Likud awaits the return of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu today, anxious to see if and how he sets about putting down the signs of an insurrection against his leadership that appeared during his trip abroad.

Also due back today is National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who was in the US. Sharon has been silent since the close of last week's turbulent Likud convention, and some of those who would like to split the Likud now regard him as their last hope. If someone of his stature teams up with them, it is argued, they might be able to pull it off.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday tersely dissociated himself from talk that he could be recruited to head the anti-Netanyahu camp.

"Netanyahu enjoys no less support than he did before the convention, distressing as some of the convention goings-on were. We are witnessing a phenomenon in which journalists are actively playing politics and trying to talk politicians into dumping Netanyahu," he said.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who has never publicly stated his attitude towards Netanyahu, conferred in the Knesset with MK Dan Meridor. Later the two huddled with Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

Olmert declared that he "is a loyal Likud member and would do nothing to undermine the Likud."

His brother, Yossi Olmert, said last night that "Ehud intends to seek re-election as Jerusalem mayor. He is not out to depose Netanyahu. Any such move would bring Labor and Ehud Barak into power. The only goal now should be to rehabilitate the Likud from within."

But not many in the party were buying the younger Olmert's denials. Likud insiders pointed to the Olmert-Meridor meeting as indicating that the rebellion is still in the cards. The question now, they said, was whether the emphasis would be on Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo's plan to split the Likud and leave Netanyahu at the head of the smaller fragment. This would deny him use of the Likud name and funds.

See LIKUD, Page 2



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (second from right) and Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri (right), escorted by security agents, walk out of the Temple of Hatshepsut yesterday. (AP)

Islamic militants claim Luxor massacre

By TAREK TABLAWY

LUXOR (AP) — Militants blamed for most of the violence in Egypt's five-year Islamic rebellion yesterday claimed responsibility for the massacre of 62 people at an ancient monument outside Luxor.

Al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) said in a statement faxed to a Western news agency that Monday's attack was a failed attempt to take hostages to trade for the freedom of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind Egyptian cleric, jailed in the US for plotting to bomb New York landmarks.

The sandstone terraces of the Temple of Hatshepsut were bloodstained yesterday, but tourists warily returned. Many others fled the country, however, and agencies were scrapping tours, spelling disaster for Egypt's important tourism industry.

President Hosni Mubarak visited the temple to reassure tourists. He replaced his interior minister, blaming him for lax security.

Seven slain visitors were still unidentified. Police said the others were 31 Swiss, eight Japanese, five Germans, four Britons — including a child — a Bulgarian, a Colombian, and a French citizen. Twenty-four people were injured.

Police shot the six attackers as they tried to escape, including a member of al-Gamaa. Al-Gamaa has been a main target of police battling a campaign of violence aimed at overturning Mubarak's secular government and turning Egypt into a strict Islamic state.

The government has arrested and jailed thousands of suspected radicals, put hundreds on trial, and executed 63 people in the past five years.

Last year, al-Gamaa took responsibility for weapons and killing 58 foreign tourists and four Egyptians.

A coroner's report said some victims were stabbed after being shot. One survivor, a Swiss, said the "very young" gunmen calmly shot victims who had dived to the ground or run for cover behind temple pillars.

Rosemarie Dousse, shot in the arm and the leg, told Swiss television: "They made us get down on our knees. And then they started shooting. A man who was very heavy fell on top of me and the lady behind me also covered me... and then they started again, shooting those who were still alive in the head."

Al-Gamaa said it wanted to trade hostages for the release of Abdel Rahman, who was said to have advised six men convicted in the 1993 bombing of New York's World Trade Center, which killed six people.

Al-Gamaa vowed to continue its battle for "as long as the regime does not respond to our demands."

It listed the most important demands as "the establishment of God's law, cutting relations with the Zionist entity... and the return of our sheik and emir to his land."

In Cairo, Mubarak accepted Hassan Alfay's resignation as interior minister following a "deterioration in the security situation." Alfay was replaced by Lt.-Gen. Habib Ibrahim Adli, head of State Security.

Attack may hurt local tourism, Page 2 Tourists flee Egypt, Page 7

the killing of 16 Greek tourists at a hotel near the pyramid. It also claimed an assassination attempt on Mubarak while he was visiting Ethiopia in June 1995; he was unharmed.

In its statement, the militants said that their "brave" hostage attempt went awry because police opened fire too quickly.

"The government forces dealt lightly with the lives of the tourists and the citizens, leading to the great number of dead," it said.

Witnesses, however, said the six gunmen opened fire as soon as they entered the temple grounds, spraying wildly with automatic

US beefs up Gulf arsenal

Russia: We can avoid conflict

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

The US said yesterday it would send six B-52 bombers and six F-117A stealth fighters to the Gulf this week to join a force of some 250 warplanes and 22 ships poised near Iraq.

President Bill Clinton also authorized the US military commander in the region to deploy an air expeditionary force of about 30 additional fighters and B-1 bombers if necessary, Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said.

The moves were announced as the US, Russia, and other countries pressed diplomatic efforts to settle a

Albright.

The US radar-avoiding stealth fighters, that dropped laser-guided bombs on Baghdad during the 1991 Gulf War, will be based in Kuwait. The B-52s will go to a British base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

Bacon said the new deployment was triggered not only by the dispute over arms inspections but by "extremely active" Iraqi air defense moves, some of which he called an offensive threat to US and allied planes patrolling "no-fly" zones over Iraq.

"The air defense system is actually on a higher state of alert today than it was before he invaded Kuwait in 1990," he said. "This is a show of determination on our part to protect our forces and see this affront to the United Nations end as quickly as possible."

About 150 US warplanes in the Gulf are stationed in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and another are 100 on the aircraft carriers *Nimitz* and *George Washington*.

The *George Washington*, ordered by Clinton to move to the Gulf from the Mediterranean last week, is moving south in the Red Sea and will enter the Gulf later this week to join the *Nimitz*.

US B-52s and swing-wing B-1 bombers also can launch air-to-ground cruise missiles carrying 900 kg. warheads for blasting through heavy concrete.

In Tel Aviv, defense sources said the general assessment of a meeting of top IDF brass, convened by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, was that the crisis with Iraq had no bearing on Israel.

Even if the scenario should change and Israel somehow became involved, the Iraqi missile threat is minimal and the public can remain calm, the sources said.

"The Iraqis have one or two missile launchers and only a limited number of missiles," a defense source close to the meeting said.

Channel 2 showed footage last night of US Marines exercising in the Negev near Shifta. It was not clear whether the maneuvers were related to the tensions in Iraq.

PA rapped for supporting Saddam, Page 2

tense confrontation between the UN and Baghdad over arms inspections in Iraq.

President Boris Yeltsin received Saddam's envoy yesterday in Moscow, and presented proposals for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. Clinton has asked Yeltsin to use Russia's longstanding ties with Baghdad to help resolve the standoff precipitated when Iraq expelled American members of UN arms inspection teams late last month.

Yeltsin sent a letter to Saddam several days ago, and the response arrived yesterday, hand-carried by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

"In the course of the talks a certain program has been worked out that allows us, we think, to avoid a confrontation, to avoid the use of force and achieve a settlement," Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said afterward. He declined to give details.

Primakov was expected to go Geneva today for possible meetings about Iraq with the foreign ministers of Britain, France and China, and US Secretary of State Madeleine

Egypt ignores 20th anniversary of Sadat visit

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

CAIRO — The massacre of some 60 tourists at Luxor on Monday has distracted most Egyptians from whatever attention they might have been willing to pay today's 20th anniversary of president Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Ever without the massacre, however, any anniversary mood would likely have been subdued because of Egypt's deep reservations about Israel's role in the peace process. No official ceremony has been announced to mark the occasion and press attention has been scanty. The English-language *Egyptian Gazette* was the only

Aviv," as if he had made his plea for peace in that city rather than in Jerusalem.

Alongside that story was another, headlined "Egyptian businessmen trapped by Israeli counterparts," about alleged deceit by Israeli businessmen. The intent seemed clearly to offset any warm feelings toward Israel that the first article might have inadvertently elicited.

"You must understand that we are occupied by other things at the moment," said a senior government official, in explaining the minimal attention being devoted to the anniversary.

He cited the Luxor massacre, the tension over Iraq, and the economic conference in Qatar, which Egypt boycotted. On the latter two, the strongly negative press comments directed at the US almost universally attribute American motivation to its role as "protector" of Israel, rather than of Arab interests.

This attitude helps explain the low-key, if not ambivalent, attitude toward the anniversary of the Egyptian leader's historic initiative.

In the name of peace, Page 11

Cairo newspaper to devote an article to the anniversary yesterday. It was headlined "20 years after Sadat's peace struggle in Tel

Hussein, Netanyahu meet at king's British residence

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Prime Minister Netanyahu arrived here last night for an urgent meeting with King Hussein. The meeting, at Hussein's home at Ascot, was expected to continue well into the night.

Israeli officials said Netanyahu was being accompanied to the meeting by spokesman Shai Bazzak, political aide Uzi Arad, and military aide Shimon Shapira, who flew to London especially for the meeting.

Neither Ambassador Moshe Raviv nor other embassy staff were involved in the talks, which is unusual in terms of diplomatic protocol.

The meeting was not open to journalists. Reporters traveling on the prime minister's plane were not expected to be allowed to disembark during the anticipated four-hour stop-over.

There was no indication of the agenda for the meeting, the first between Netanyahu and Hussein since the botched assassination attempt on Hamas activist Khaled Mashaal in Amman in September. However, it is widely believed that Netanyahu and Hussein discussed the Gulf crisis, particularly Israel's likely response to new Scud attacks by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Before leaving the US, Netanyahu was reluctant to discuss the nature of the talks, but he indicated that one purpose would be to send a message to Saddam. He did not deny that this was one purpose of the meeting when interviewed by CNN's Larry King, replying cryptically that such a suggestion "would fall into the category of hypotheticals."

He also said Israel is "looking at all possibilities of what could develop" and is prepared for all eventualities.

The story behind the meeting

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES — An intriguing sidelight to the unorthodox arrangements underlying Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's meeting with King Hussein was revealed by Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

While driving to a doctor's appointment last Thursday morning, Hier received a call on his cellular phone from Hussein, then in Washington, saying he was sending his personal aide to Los Angeles on an important mission.

The next morning Gen. Ali Shukri arrived at the Wiesenthal Center. He carried a message that the king wanted to restore his country's frayed relationship with Israel at the highest level and could Netanyahu meet him at his London home on Tuesday.

According to Hier, Shukri stressed four points motivating Hussein: reestablishing intelligence exchanges at the top level; the issue of Palestinian air and seaport facilities; a possible moratorium on Hamas terrorism; and cementing the personal relationship between Hussein and Netanyahu.

Hier said he immediately got in touch with Yoram Ben Ze'ev, the consul-general in Los Angeles, who conveyed the invitation directly to Netanyahu.

The final details were arranged Monday, when Hussein phoned Netanyahu while he was touring the Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance.

Hier said that he and the king had struck up a friendship when Hussein toured the Wiesenthal Center last year. He said Hussein had invited him to visit him in the hospital during the king's recent illness.

MKs petition Shahal: Please don't retire

By LIAT COLLINS

Touchingly, the "Save Shahal" campaign is being led by the Likud's Raby Rivlin, who called him an "outstanding parliamentarian."

Shahal, 61, initially announced he would be resigning in August. Then, he said, Labor Party leader Ehud Barak had asked him to reconsider. As a compromise, it was agreed he would leave three months later, at the start of the winter session.

The date came and went, and Shahal's presence was explained by the excuse that the Knesset wanted to see him off properly with a special farewell session. The date was finally set for November 17 — which also came

and went. This time, Shahal didn't even bother with an excuse.

Shahal, who has been an MK since 1971 and has been energy, police, and communications minister, has explained his planned resignation by saying he feels he has fulfilled his potential in the House. He also implied he prefers to leave with dignity now than be thrown out at a later date.

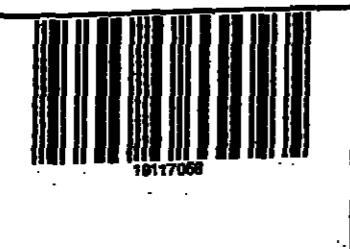
He also cited changes in the status of the Knesset, partly stemming from the new system of direct elections and primary elections.

Yesterday, he could not be reached for comment — even by Labor Party functionaries.

Rivlin started the anti-resignation petition which calls on him to remain in the House.

"Your wealth of experience, your wisdom, and the great deal of knowledge you have accumulated are vital today — perhaps more than ever — both to the Knesset and to the State of Israel," Rivlin wrote to Shahal.

The petition has been signed by members of almost all the Knesset factions, including Speaker Dan Tichon, but several Labor MKs have yet to sign, including Yael Dayan, Nawaf Massalha, Yossi Beilin, and Avraham Shohat. Apparently, some coalition MKs who are calling on Shahal to remain simply don't want him to be replaced by Taiba Mayor Rafik Haj Yihye, who is next on the Labor list.



ETV head resigns

By HELEN KAYE

ETV director-general Ahuva Feinmesser yesterday tendered her resignation in a letter to Education and Sports Minister Zevulun Hammer and to the Knesset Education Committee.

Her resignation was promptly accepted by Hammer who has sought her removal for more than a year, after he refused to renew her contract when it expired.

Hammer's new appointee for the post is Moti Sklar, currently the principal of the Ma'aleh College of Communications, a religious institution. He intends to present Sklar's nomination to the cabinet Sunday for confirmation.

In her letter, Feinmesser cited "the devil's dance swirling around ETV, which seriously endangers the station's 30 year record of achievement," a reference not only to the labor troubles which have plagued the station over the last year, but also to the row over her presumed replacement, who is religious and lives in the settlement of Ofra.

Some of the labor unrest was

caused by personnel cutbacks Feinmesser has made and the employees' uncertainty regarding job security.

ETV has prided itself on its professionalism and independence over the years Feinmesser wrote, an independence which now seems threatened.

Responding at the same Knesset committee meeting, Shinui MK Avraham Poraz indicated that he will petition the High Court of Justice to prevent Sklar's appointment without a tender, saying "general managers in government service can be fired with a month's notice. An unhealthy dependence will therefore result between the minister and the director-general of ETV."

However, Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander told the committee that the post is one of some 45 senior positions that can, in fact, be filled without a tender.

During Feinmesser's tenure, ETV went from 53 to 110 weekly broadcast hours, and from one to three channels, all on an annual budget of NIS 120 million.



Coexistence pays

President Ezer Weizman receives a gift yesterday from New York businessman Alan Sifka, founder of the Abraham Fund, a \$700,000 fund for Jewish-Arab coexistence that awarded grants to 55 educational, cultural and health projects at a Beit Hanassi ceremony. The ceremony was also addressed in Hebrew and Arabic by former president Yitzhak Navon, chairman of the fund's public council and the deputy chairman, Dr. Mahmud Abbassi.

(Text: Batsheva Tsur, Photo: Bryan McBurney)

Edelstein to meet with Pollard next week

By BATSHEVA TSUR and ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein left Monday night on a 10-day trip to the US, during which he is to visit Jonathan Pollard in Butner Prison in North Carolina next Monday.

A spokesman for Edelstein said Edelstein wants to put Pollard's case back on the national agenda, and believes his situation has been neglected by the government.

This week marks 13 years since Pollard's imprisonment, and the spokesman said Edelstein believes the efforts to get back the General Security Service agents involved in the Mashaal Affair leads him to believe that the country has the power to bring individuals back from captivity if it really wants to do so.

Meanwhile, Pollard, serving a life



J. Pollard (Wolf Blitzer)

sentence for spying for Israel, has decided to take the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations to the Rabbinical Council of America's beit din (rabbinical court).

Pollard asked New York Rabbi Avi Weiss, who has been active on his behalf, to represent him against the conference which, he says, has refused to honor two of Judaism's most important mitzvot - the redemption of captives and saving a life.

Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairwoman MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) yesterday recommended asking the prime minister to send an envoy to meet with Australian Jews and explain the delay in prosecuting those responsible for the Maccabiah bridge collapse.

Her comments were in response to reports that a failure to resolve the issue has angered many Australian Jews and undermined their support for Israel.

A statement to the committee from Dr. Ron Weiser, President of the Zionist Federation of Australia, said "the relationship between the Australian Jewish community and Israel has been dramatically affected by the events of the Maccabiah and its aftermath."

Australian Jews angry over delays in disaster probe

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Blumenthal, citing other recent expressions of anger with Israel in the Australian Jewish community, said that part of the problem could be attributed to a communications gap.

She said the committee session was called to send "our deepest support that we can send from the Knesset to Sasha Elterman and the other victims and their families, and to tell them that the state of Israel stands behind them, behind its responsibility for and commitment to each of them, and to the Australian Jewish community."

Elterman, a tennis player, was seriously injured in the collapse.

As a first step in explaining the delays in the case, a member of the state attorney's office who is traveling to Australia on private business, plans to meet with representatives of victims' families and others in the Jewish community, the committee was told.

Initial financial compensation of \$500,000 for victims should be forthcoming as soon as a committee appointed in Australia to weigh the requests reaches a decision, expected in early December.

The money, in the form of a loan, has been approved by the government.

The committee also addressed the issue of South African Jewry yesterday. Blumenthal accused the government of failing to do enough to promote the immigration of South African Jews to Israel. Many, she said, were fleeing growing violence in South Africa by immigrating to Australia or Canada.

The committee is to meet in two weeks to discuss ways of encouraging these Jews to immigrate instead to Israel.

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Sharansky's gesture

The Russian press discusses Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky's participation in the mass rally in Kfar Rabin organized by supporters of the left-wing opposition. An editorial in *Vremya* stated, "The appearance of Sharansky at this meeting is understandable in light of his recent steps toward negotiating for a national unity government." The newspaper reported that Sharansky's office received dozens of telegrams and faxed supporting his participation in the commemoration.

24 Hours stated that Sharansky's main objective is not necessarily a unity government but a unifying of the nation. "Without national consensus, it is impossible to untangle the Lebanon knot. One would not be able to reach a permanent agreement with the Palestinians, could not bring together the position of the Orthodox and the Reform, could not defend against the Iranian threat," the paper writes.

Sharansky's appearance displayed his moral fortitude, says Ludmila Lagush. "He was denounced as a minister, as a right-winger, and as a Russian." But his

appearance "once again proved that Sharansky continues to be a Jewish idealist who does not accept the fact that today, some 2,000 years after the murder of Gedalia, a Jew can raise his hand against another Jew."

Grief on parade

The general tone regarding the second commemoration of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination was expressed by Sofia Ron in *Vesti*. "I don't understand why what happened has to make me revise the past. I condemn the assassination, but it does not deprive me of my right to deem... his policy imprudent. His Oslo Accords are disastrous for the country." Referring to Rabin's intolerance toward the settlers, she said that, as a resident of Hebron, she did not participate in the "semi-official parade of sorrow" following his death, "not because I am against preventing violence but because if I had been shot by terrorists while driving home to Hebron, Rabin would not have come to my funeral."

Another commentator in *Vesti*, Anna Isakova, recalls her impressions when "as a child, I saw endless crowds [at Stalin's funeral]

expressing the grief of the nation. I parroted the prescribed words and I cried my ready-to-flow tears... There is a lot of dishonesty in mass demonstrations of sorrow. I don't believe that collective grief can be sincere. Pain is personal."

Ida Nudel

The cover article of *The Seventh Day*, the weekly magazine of *Novosti Nedeli*, was dedicated to Ida Nudel. "Ten years ago on Simhat Torah, she came to this country with a great fanfare and a warm welcome from the leaders," writes Tal Bashan.

"They used me," says Nudel, "but at the beginning I did not protest. I understood. It was a festival uniting all Jews. I became a symbol of the best in the Jewish people: self-respect, national honor, steadfastness."

But, she says, she didn't want to be a passive symbol; she wanted to continue her work for the nation. "But nobody was interested in me as a person. Ya'acov Tsur, absorption minister at the time, told me 'Your role is over. You're like a plaque on the wall.'"

Israel in El Nino project

By JUDY SIEGEL

A satellite observatory for measuring tropical rainfall and effects on global weather patterns caused by El Nino was to be launched from Japan at 10:40 p.m. local time last night, in a project involving US, Japanese and Israeli cooperation.

The observatory, called Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM), is a joint US National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Japanese project supported by an international team of scientists.

Dr. Daniel Rosenfeld of the Hebrew University's atmospheric sciences department developed the methodology used by TRMM to measure rainfall with radar.

NEWS in brief

Sanctions to shut operating rooms, clinics

All operating rooms in the north of the country will be shut down today except for emergencies, while diagnostic institutes and outpatient clinics in the south will be closed as well.

The Israel Medical Association, which yesterday held a general strike in all public general, psychiatric and geriatric hospitals, defines the north as Kfar Saba northwards and the south as whatever lies south of Kfar Saba.

The sanctions - now in their 10th week - are in protest against the Treasury's refusal to finance 360 additional doctors' jobs in public institutions.

Judy Siegel

Threat to shut development town schools

Schools in the 51 development towns will be shut as of December 1 to protest planned budget cuts, Union of Local Authorities officials announced yesterday.

Beit Shemesh Mayor Daniel Vaknin said the decision by the Ministerial Committee on Economics to make parents in development towns pay for nursery school classes for their children was a return to the 1950s.

The mayors decided not to collect the money from the parents, and said they would put pressure on the ministers to cancel the decision, but if all else failed, they would shut down the schools.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Parents on hunger strike to get kids into school

Ten parents of children who were supposed to attend the Mikve Yisrael Agricultural School but whose registration was canceled at the last minute, according to the parents, continued the hunger strike they started Sunday in an attempt to get them admitted.

Some 100 junior high school pupils had their registration canceled when the Holon Municipality decided to cut the number of seventh-grade classes in the school from five to two, the parents said.

Holon Mayor Moti Sasson said that both the High Court of Justice and an independent arbiter have ruled against parents' demands to admit their children to Mikve Yisrael.

Itim

Argentine bomb probe to call ex-police chief

An Argentine congressional commission will summon a former police chief for questioning over the July 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires that killed 86 people, the commission's head said yesterday.

Former chief of the Buenos Aires province police Pedro Klodczyk will be called to testify tomorrow, Congressman Carlos Soria said.

Soria said there were "many reasons" to question Klodczyk. Klodczyk was fired as head of Argentina's largest police force in 1996 after four of his officers were arrested and charged with providing the vehicle used in the car-bomb attack.

Reuters

Argentinian defense minister to visit

Argentinian Defense Minister Jorge Dominguez is scheduled to pay a week-long official visit at the end of the month, the Defense Ministry announced yesterday. Dominguez is slated to visit defense industries and IDF bases. Fewer than a dozen defense ministers have visited since the Likud-led government took over. In contrast, some 35 arrived during 1994 alone when the ministry was under Yitzhak Rabin.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Israeli and Dutch defense industries join forces

In an effort to boost sales, Israeli and Dutch defense industries are joining forces to compete in the increasingly competitive world arms market. Next week, Gamlich Meiling, a deputy defense minister in the Netherlands, will head a delegation of 15 companies visiting Israel as guests of the Ministry of Defense with the aim of forging ties for joint production and marketing of weapons systems, the ministry said.

Arieh O'Sullivan

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH Spokesman's Bureau

Warning Regarding Switching Health Funds

At the end of December, it will be possible to change one's health fund membership, from one fund to another. At this time, the Ministry of Health wishes to warn the public, regarding those who solicit for the various funds, and the promises and enticements offered by the health funds, in return for signing an undertaking to change to, or join a particular fund.

The National Health Insurance Law gives every citizen the right to choose the health fund he wishes to belong to. One may change one's health fund membership twice a year, in July and December.

Recently, some health funds have been attempting to entice members of the public to become members, using material enticements (gifts, etc.) worthless promises, and incorrect information.

Many people sign forms, presented to them by "marketing agents," and later find themselves members of a health fund, which they did not mean to join, and with no access to their former doctor and clinic.

The Ministry of Health denounces these practices, and warns the public not to be fooled by such inducements into signing such forms, without thinking seriously about the step being taken.

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TO THE NEGEV

From Abraham till Ben-Gurion

DREAMS VISIONS REALITY

Join *Shorashim* and *The Jerusalem Post Travel Club's* exciting two-day, English speaking tour "down south," and see the places you've only heard about. On our way, we'll visit the Etzion Bloc and then on to Susiya, where nothing has changed since Talmudic times and the Bar Kokhba revolt. We'll review the ancient synagogue mosaics and an audio-visual presentation. At Sede Boker, we'll be briefed at the Solar Energy Center, view the Zin Wilderness, and relax at the Avedat spring. The ancient Nabatean city of Avedat is next, together with the famous experimental farm which uses 2000 year old irrigation methods that once made the desert bloom. Then to Mitzpeh Ramon for our overnight at the Ramon Inn. We'll have an "in-depth" study of Mechtresh Ramon, the largest crater in the country, tour the visitor's center, examine the Lotz Cisterns ancient water storage holes and view Jebel Haruf. Our next stop is the Alpaca farm, where we'll meet these four-legged immigrants from South America, and then along the border road with Egypt to Nitzana, with a visit to its famous youth village. On to Revivim Observation Point, set in the heart of the Negev, the Palmah Memorial and Beersheba.

The dates: Tues/Wed December 2/3
Tour guide: Arie Salomon

The price: NIS 635, which includes transportation from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and return, entrance to all the sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Overnight in a double room at the Ramon Inn. Dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch on the second. Pick-up and drop-off along the route where possible, if arranged beforehand.

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Russian, Ethiopian to help soldiers

Wei the price of favors

People are not a commodity, though by their actions, the Chinese seem to think so. Releasing pro-democracy dissident Wei Jingsheng from prison and sending him to New York is a trade. It is not an act of moral principle, nor of injustice made just. It is a trade. A human body in return for American favors. Diplomatic whoring.

Of course we are delighted to see Mr. Wei out of prison. But President Jiang Zemin should not expect us to fall on our knees in gratitude.

We might do so for President Bill Clinton, who undoubtedly is responsible for telling the dour Jiang during his recent visit to the United States that freeing dissidents is an essential step for improving relations with the West and reaping the economic benefits.

That may also be trading, but it is trading that values the human life, not degrades it. Buying a slave his freedom was never dishonorable. Enslaving him always was.

The reason China deserves no pat on the back is that Wei should not have lost all those years of his life in prison in the first place. He is an honorable man. He wants more democracy for the Chinese. Big deal; big crime! And enforced exile is not a gift, thank you.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

No saint
That is what made the hostage crises of Teheran and Beirut such riveting, long-running stories in recent years. It is one of those "How would I cope?" stories almost everyone on earth can identify with, an evil cradling, as Brian Keenan, the Beirut hostage, described it. Wei is an extraordinary dissident, even among that extraordinary breed of freedom fighters. Of course he is no saint, simply a man trying to do the right thing and refusing to compromise. His passion may come from a desire to right the sins of his own parents and himself.

His parents were party functionaries in the 1950s. Wei himself was brought up in the world of absolute belief in the Communist Party, absolute loyalty to Chairman Mao.

As a senior-school student, he was swept up in the ghastly Cultural Revolution, criss-crossing China as a red guard. Oddly enough, it was the very attempt to revitalize the Maoist revolution that opened his eyes.

In this, Wei is remarkably like those rich or privileged young men in medieval times who suffered a blinding stab of conscience on suddenly noticing the poor and wretched in the streets, whom they had never noticed before. Such men, like Francis or Augustine, went on to rail against the corruption and privilege of the church, mocking its failure to live up to its own sole reason for existence.

Wei, a privileged member of the Communist elite, saw a China filled with famine. The "glorious masses" of the propaganda machine were starving in the streets - only to be bullied by himself and his fascist red guards.

So in many aspects, Wei has returned with the fervor of a convert, a rich Francis has become a Saint Francis, taking on the church of Mao and his acolytes.

Leading light
That is why he has taken on a status both inside and outside China, greater perhaps than the man himself. The power over people that comes to someone who has seen a blinding light on the Damascus road is tricky. The former persecutor becomes the champion of those he has persecuted.

No surprise then that Wei turned up as a leading light of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement and suffered the communist baptism of fire there, followed by 18 years in prison. (Wei wrote to Deng Xiaoping and told him: "You are just the sort of idiot who would do what you have just done in Tiananmen.")

That was not a good ideal He was released briefly while China lobbied to get the Olympic 2000 games and was spitefully re-jailed for "attempting to overthrow the government" when it failed.

That's modern Chinese commodity trading for you.

Time isn't money
Even so, the prominent ones are the lucky ones. Who can count how many other lives without names are lost and buried in cells without numbers in the dark crannies of Chinese oppression. Their names are not on US presidents' lips. Their deeds, if they are very lucky, might migrate from some obscure Chinese filing cabinet to some obscure one in the offices of Amnesty International.

There is something peculiarly hellish about the thought of years of time wasted for no reason. In a world - and a China - obsessed with economics and crass truisms like "time is money," the true meaning of time lost is itself lost.

It is like one of those common anxiety dreams: falling, being lost in a maze, having one's teeth break or fall out. Wei's teeth fell out in prison.

In our short life span - so much to do, so little time to do it - serious time-stealing should itself be a capital crime. Apart from death, madness, or loss of a loved one, wrongful or erroneous imprisonment must be everyone's worst nightmare.

That is why the "knock on the door" means fascism or communism.

While the mass murders of the Nazis, Stalinists or Khmer Rouge are the first line of horror, the second is the lives they have truncated; lives partly reconstructed on bitter thoughts of years lost, lovers never met, children never raised, careers never followed, journeys never made.

Money makes the world go around

While grappling with the world's political stability, the UN must also fight financial delinquency

By JOHN M. GOSHIKO

UNITED NATIONS - Congress's refusal to pay almost \$1 billion owed by the United States to the United Nations hit here like a hurricane last week, unleashing fears that the world body will run out of money in 1998. It also means that the Clinton administration's hopes of getting the US share of the UN budget reduced from 25 to 22 percent have all but sunk.

Last Thursday, the Republican-controlled House and Senate capped a battle with the White House over abortion by stripping funds for the UN and the International Monetary Fund from a foreign operations spending bill. The move ruined overnight months of painstaking negotiation between the administration, congressional leaders and UN officials. Their efforts were aimed at pulling the UN back from the brink of bankruptcy and preserving the ability of the US to rally the support of UN members in international disputes, such as the present confrontation with Iraq.

"I am disappointed, and I am concerned," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said. "It is both unreasonable and regrettable that the legislation was held hostage to the entirely unrelated domestic politics of abortion.... The failure comes during a week when the UN Security Council has been seized by the crisis regarding arms inspection in Iraq, in which the United Nations plays a role that is indispensable to international peace and security as well as to the vital national interests of the United States."

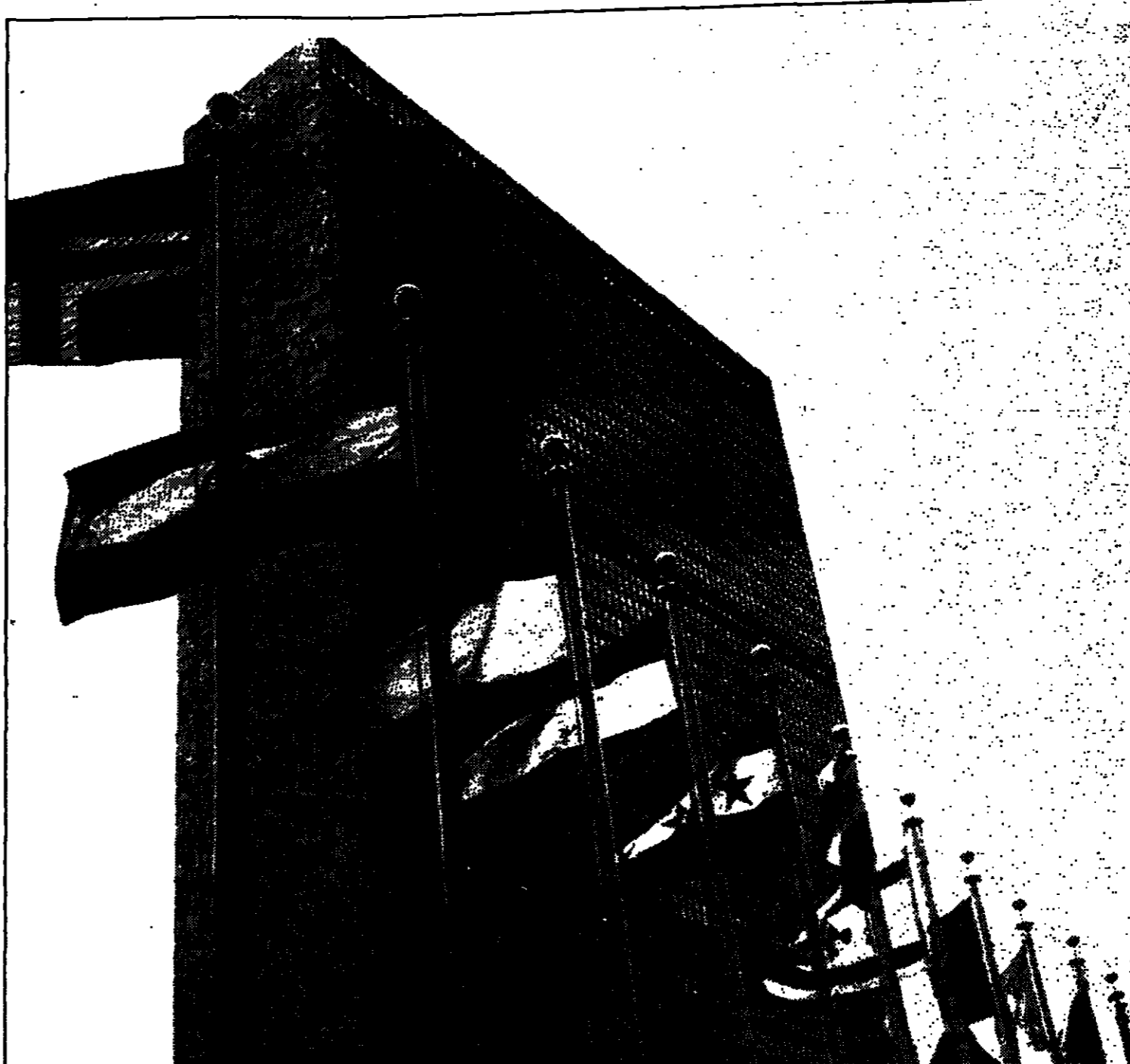
US Ambassador Bill Richardson, who has led the US campaign to prod the UN toward far-reaching reform and win cuts in the US share of the budget, charged in an interview that "Congress has put at risk our vast foreign policy efforts and has especially hurt our efforts to build an international consensus against Iraq."

"This will make it near impossible to convince the other UN member states to drop our dues from 25 to 22 percent," he added. "The Congress has sent me into a battle to lower our dues scales without even a slingshot."

UN officials said the financial effects of the decision may be felt throughout the organization. Joseph E. Connor, undersecretary general for management, said in an interview that at the end of 1998 the organization will have an estimated cash deficit of \$261m, and most likely will not be able to cover it by borrowing from its peacekeeping funds, as it has been doing since 1995.

"We will continue to carry out the programs that the membership specified in the budget," he said. "But when we run out of cash, our ability to continue will become questionable and the members will face the painful choices of having to decide what functions and programs may have to be sacrificed."

Excepting peacekeeping, the United Nation's overall budget, which is spread over a period of two years, is \$2.53b. for 1998-99.



Months of painstaking negotiations aimed at pulling the UN back from the brink of bankruptcy were ruined by Congress's refusal to pay the United State's \$1b. debt. (United Nations)

The sizable US arrears for the regular budget and peacekeeping assessments has been building rapidly through the 1990s because Congress has balked at paying without evidence of substantial UN reform.

As of October 31, the United Nations calculated the total US debt at \$1.37b., or 61% of the \$2.3b. owed to the world body by delinquent members. Largely because of a dispute about how much the US should be charged for peacekeeping, Congress has insisted that the US debt is less than \$1b.

At the beginning of this year, Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced that resolving the debt controversy was a top priority of US foreign policy.

The ensuing negotiations with Congress led to a compromise, crafted primarily by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, R-N.C., that essentially called for the United States to pay \$926m. over three years. The payments were to

be made contingent on the UN meeting certain reform "benchmarks," including reduction of the US contribution to the budget.

However, the legislation to appropriate the money became the backdrop for a fight over efforts by anti-abortion members of Congress to prevent UN-backed international family planning agencies from using their own funds to perform abortions or promote liberalized abortion laws overseas. The White House threatened to veto any measure containing anti-abortion language, and the ensuing tug of war led Republican leaders to delete most of the UN and IMF money from the bill.

Congress, in the \$13.1 billion spending measure, did leave \$100m. of the original \$926m. to go toward UN arrears, provided the US budget share is cut to 22%. It also left in about \$300m. to pay the US share of the 1998 regular UN budget.

That postponed prospects of obtaining more money for the arrears until early next year,

when Congress will take up a 1998 supplemental spending bill. But both sides say it will be no easier to break the stalemate.

Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., a leader of the anti-abortion forces, said he has received ironclad assurances from House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., that "there would be no UN arrears or IMF funds unless the president meets us at least half way" on anti-abortion language.

The UN has been making up deficits in its budget by borrowing from money it gets from members for peacekeeping. For much of the decade, countries contributing troops and equipment to these operations - like Britain and France in Bosnia - deferred the repayment they were owed from the UN peacekeeping account. But recently there has been a drastic reduction in UN peacekeeping, and the funds generated by the corresponding assessments have shrunk from \$923m. in 1995 to \$670m. this year.

"We are at a point where the

rowing is getting smaller and smaller and we no longer can put off paying our debts to countries that have contributed troops. That debt is about \$900m., and the US arrears payments we had hoped to receive was our only hope of paying off the debt," Connor said.

Before today, a consensus had been growing in the 185-nation body towards accepting a reduction in the US share, which is larger than that of any other country. Despite considerable grumbling there had emerged a general belief that other industrial nations - notably the members of the European Union and Japan - eventually would pick up the slack if Washington cleared its debts.

"But no one is going to do that if the only incentive is a US payment of \$100 million," said one West European ambassador who asked not to be identified. "From a European perspective, the payment of a substantial part of the US arrears is an absolutely essential precondition for any agreement to lower the US dues assessment." (Washington Post)

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ISRAEL is more than a few pages

מכון התורה



In Neil Simon's bittersweet 'The Prisoner of Second Avenue,' Anne Bancroft looks after her husband, Jack Lemmon, who suffers a nervous breakdown.

'Graduate' bombshell Bancroft now gives sexism a good name

By DOUGLAS J. ROWE

Anne Bancroft laughs hysterically when the idea of an all-female military is raised. She likes it so much that she asks that she be quoted as proposing it and says she'll definitely use the line in her next interview.

"I think that everyone has got the right of choice — up to a certain point. Then after that they don't. And we all pick and choose what point that is for our own selves," says the 66-year-old Oscar, Tony and Emmy winner.

"For my own self, I just don't think women belong in combat. I don't believe that men do, either. But if a war has to be

fought, if nobody else can think of any other way to solve a problem, and some war has to be fought, physically, with guns and — I don't even want to talk about," she says, cutting herself off, sounding so frustrated and disgusted with the prospect.

Good thing the ever elegant, slender actress is willing to talk about plenty of other things, beginning with professing a taste for single-malt scotch: the dearth (real or imagined) of good roles for women, the pluses and minuses of her most memorable role, Mrs. Robinson in *The Graduate*, and her 33-year marriage to Mel Brooks.

For someone who's made almost 60 films, availability of roles wouldn't seem to be a problem. Bancroft won the Academy Award in 1963 playing Annie Sullivan in "The Miracle Worker," a part for which she also won the 1960 Tony. She received Oscar nominations for her performances in *The Pumpkin Eater* (1964), *The Graduate* (1967), *The Turning Point* (1977) and *Agnes of God* (1985). She also played highly memorable roles in *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* (1975), and *42 Charing Cross Road* (1987).

Bancroft concedes there may be a lack of

leading roles for women, but she can find even small roles satisfying. The example she gives: Her part in the 1993 movie *Malice*, which amounted to a one- or two-day shoot.

"So there are always good parts. They may not pay what you want, and they may not have as many days' work as you want, they may not have the billing that you want, they may not have a lot of things, but [when it comes to] the content of the role itself, I find there are many roles."

But when it comes to big-money leading roles, she says, there aren't that many available for women. "If there are, let's say, 20 astronauts, there may be two women among those 20 astronauts. If there are 20 FBI guys, there's one woman and the rest are men," she says.

"So when somebody writes a script about life, usually the leading role will be the man, because mostly what women do is at home taking care of the children."

"That's the most important job there is on Earth. And why shouldn't women have it, since they are the better of the two sexes," she says, laughing.

She says she's gotten flak for that opinion,

but anyone who thinks she's saying something derogatory or demeaning is mistaken.

While some critics and fans have seen her characters as being typically daring and feisty, Bancroft doesn't. She thinks they're usually desperate or angry people.

Annie Sullivan had no choice but to take that position as Helen Keller's teacher, Bancroft maintains, noting that Sullivan was half-blind herself and her job opportunities were limited.

"She couldn't see dust, so she couldn't be a maid," she says. "Her eyes grew tired so she couldn't be a secretary or whatever they were allowing women to be in those days. Desperate, lonely, longing — that's how I thought of her."

Similarly, her latest character is put against the wall when she's threatened with closings of military bases in her state; Emma Jacklin in *The Turning Point* was someone disappointed with her personal life despite her renown as a dancer; and even Mrs. Robinson feels great rage for getting married young and not testing her own artistic abilities — so her affair with a younger man "comes out of enormous self-hatred," Bancroft says.

A soprano's 'sacrifice' Poulenc: 'Monk & playboy'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Sharon Rostorf admits that she would rather stay home these days.

The eight-month pregnant soprano says "It's very difficult to sing when you are in the last months of pregnancy. The physical demands are tough, and I would really prefer to remain at home and bake cookies." However, she still has two more concerts this month before she takes a leave of absence to give birth to her second child, a sibling to 14-month-old Or-El. But the pregnancy did not prevent her from giving a captivating performance as the maid Serpina in the Pergolesi chamber *La serva padrona*, with the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba earlier this month.

How will Rostorf be able to maintain her international operatic and concert career with two young children at home? "I must admit that the situation with nannies is somewhat frightening these days, but it will all work out — it must. I have no intention of giving up either family or career. I know life will take care of itself and everything will be fine."

Rostorf says that being a mother "justifies my attitude toward life entirely. I feel much more human, and I love this so-called 'sacrifice.' Now when I sing, I enjoy it even more than before."

Rostorf claims that living in Israel can be much more detrimental to her career than having children. "We decided that this is the only place where we want to raise our children; this is the best place for education. And I admit that this is the biggest sacrifice I have made for my career. But we will see how it works out. I have no fears at all."

While many singers' voices have changed considerably after giving birth, Rostorf says, "There was no real dramatic change in my voice. But I sing different types of roles now. I feel more comfortable



Sharon Rostorf says that being a mother makes her enjoy singing more than ever.

with the more lyric roles these days, and I gave up singing those which call for high coloratura."

Born into a Polish-Spanish heritage in Kfar Vitkin, Rostorf was "a sensitive child. In the moshav society there was not much understanding for what I was doing."

These days, the soprano, who graces opera stages all over the world, has made her home not far from the Sharon moshav where she was born. And she does not need to justify her singing any longer. Everyone around her accepts her for what she is — a singer who is first and foremost a wife and a mother.

"I want to say to any young singer who hesitates that she should not even think twice about having a family. A career is a very cruel thing. I cannot imagine reaching 50 and being all alone without a family. No career could ever compensate for not having children."

Sharon Rostorf performs songs by Meyerbeer, Jacobs and Spohr at the Tel Aviv Museum on Saturday. She sings the Pergolesi *Stabat Mater* in Abu Ghosh next Saturday.

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) was one of the most ambiguous and versatile composers of the first half of the 20th century. On the one hand he was a very religious man and composer; on the other, his music is full of humor, wit and chic or, to quote a contemporary, Poulenc was "at once monk and playboy." In 1935 Poulenc's friend, Pierre-Octave Ferroud, was killed in a car accident; at the same time, the composer visited the simple chapel of St. Amador.

As a result, Poulenc rediscovered his Catholic faith and composed a large number of sacred works. That year, Poulenc gave his first recital, accompanying baritone Pierre Bernac on the piano, for whom he would later compose many songs and song cycles.

Poulenc wrote three operas, quite diverse one from the other, yet sharing his unique style and individual musical sincerity. And all are available on first-rate recordings.

Les mamelles de Tiresias (*The Breasts of Tiresias*) is a wild comedy described as an opera buffa yet, at the same time, a rather serious work calling for the need for more French babies (EMI 5 65565 2, with the exceptional Denise Duval in the lead). *Les Dialogues des Carmelites*, one of the best operas of the 20th century, is a poignant tale of French nuns during the French Revolution, a story of heroism and pure devotion (Kent Nagano conducting a mesmerizing performance. Virgin 59227-2).

His final opera, the one-woman monodrama *Voix humaine*, is a much more concise approach to the power of the individual to face all trials and tribulations, a work which the composer himself added "should be bathed in the greatest orchestral sensuality." (Again, Duval is superb. EMI CDM 7 69696 2).

There are several recordings of

the other works of Poulenc available on disc.

As a matter of fact, EMI has a set of various double disc albums which cover almost the entire spectrum of the French composer's output. Poulenc's music encapsulates all styles and genres and results in some of the more beguiling works ever written — even if not many are that well known to the average music-lover.

Poulenc Chamber Music (EMI CZS 7 62736 2, two discs for the price of one) features 11 different works, including a magical reading of the violin sonata with Yehudi Menuhin and Jacques Favrier, as well as a first-rate rendition of the passionate trio for piano, oboe, and bassoon.

It is a most engaging album which reveals the intimate in Poulenc.

A somewhat different composer is revealed in *Poulenc Orchestral Works* (EMI CZS 7 62690 2, two discs for the price of one), comprising 11 relatively short works as well as the concerto for two pianos, with the composer himself and Favrier as soloists.

A totally different kind of Poulenc is revealed in *Poulenc Melodies* (EMI CMS 7 64087 2, four-disc album, mid-price) which features 150 songs performed by some of the leading lieder singers of our time, all accompanied by the amazing Dalton Baldwin at the piano.

These recordings from the mid-'70s are captivating, even if at times listening to one hour of short songs can be rather tedious.

The sacred Poulenc is quite different from the secular one. These works clearly show a 20th-century composer at his complex best, a

composer trying to come to terms with the familiar liturgical texts in his own special way. The mass in G might not be that familiar, but it is one of Poulenc's most encompassing works, performed to perfection by the Westminster Cathedral Choir, with James O'Donnell conducting (Hyperion CDA 66664). The CD features several other religious works as well.

Poulenc composed several concerti for keyboard instruments, most of which were commissioned by the Princesse Edmond de Polignac, a true patron of the arts in general and music in particular.

Aside from the piano concerto, there are three earlier concerti — one for two pianos (1932), the concerto for organ, strings and timpani (1938), and the charming concerto champetre for harpsichord and orchestra (1927-28). Each is a very individual work yet all share in a quite ingenious way Poulenc's love for the overall orchestral sounds on the one hand and the contrasting virtuosity and swiftness of the solo instrument on the other.

These concerti can be heard on the successful Poulenc disc currently on the market, the Double Decca one (448 270-2 two discs for the price of one) featuring the four keyboard concerti, the Gloria, the piano sextet, and the sonata for two pianos, all in superb performances.

Pascal Roge is thrilling in the piano concerto, while Israeli duo pianists Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir, under the baton of Sergiu Comissiona, are as powerful and commanding in the concerto for two pianos as they are in the sonata for two pianos.

Israeli soprano Sylvia Greenberg is the perfect soloist in the Gloria, and Roge is magical in the piano sextet as well. If you want only one Poulenc disc, this is the one.

CLASSIC DISCS

By Michael Ajzenstadt

NEWS

of the muse

Sex on the Tel Aviv stage

*Shopping and F***ing*, Mark Ravenhill's first play, sent shock waves through audiences when it premiered last year at London's Royal Court Theater, but it went on to become a West End hit. Next month (December 17-22) the British Council is bringing the play to ZOA House in Tel Aviv. It centers around four rootless, jobless flounders for whom everything has been reduced to a transaction. It contains vile language, profanity and explicit onstage simulated sex, so much so that one reviewer, Charles Spenser of the *Daily Telegraph*, "wished that I could get up and leave, like my seatmate," but he didn't because the play is "a revolting but persuasive portrait of our times," and because "Ravenhill's old-fashioned moral theme is that money — and the lack of it — is at the root of all evil, and that relationships have become... exercises in acquisition and control."

Evening Standard critic Nicholas de Jongh called it "a blackly humorous play for today's twentysomethings."

The *Out of Joint Theater* production is directed by Max Stafford Clark. Another Stafford Clark production, Caryl Churchill's *Blue Heart* will play at the 1998 Israel Festival.

Helen Kaye

Double bill at the opera

The one-act operas *The Emperor from Atlantis* by Viktor Ullmann, and the Brecht-Weill collaboration, *The Seven Deadly Sins*, owe their existence to the Nazis. Ullmann, gassed at Auschwitz in 1944, wrote the music in 1942 when he was in Theresienstadt. The words are by Czech poet Peter Kien, also an inmate.

It's the story of an all-powerful tyrant who is thwarted in his intention to wage the ultimate war by Death, who goes on strike. The opera even went into rehearsal, but the SS forbade its performance, and a few weeks later Ullmann was shipped to Auschwitz.

The cabaret-style *The Seven Deadly Sins* was written in Paris in 1933, after Bertold Brecht, a card-carrying Communist, and the Jewish composer Kurt Weill had fled Hitler's Germany. The opera is a condemnation of "the American Dream" — not very gracious to the country that took Brecht in — and was written originally as a ballet with singers. Here it stars soprano Anya Silja, a world-celebrated Wagnerian soprano. The double bill is the next New Israeli Opera production, which opens at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center December 6.

Helen Kaye

Prize for Yiddishpiel

Yiddishpiel, the Israel Yiddish Theater, received the Itzik Manger Prize for its productions of Manger's *Humeshtieder* and *Die Magille* in a ceremony at ZOA house this week. Manger (1901-69) was a Romanian-born Yiddish poet and author. He immigrated here in 1967 and died two years later.

Helen Kaye

David Shallon, 'Prince of Luxembourg'

David Shallon, music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA has been appointed principal conductor of the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra, as of this season. He opened his concerts in Luxembourg with Mahler's monumental third symphony, the work with which he opened the season in Jerusalem to great acclaim.

The Luxembourg critics raved enthusiastically, with one critic dubbing Shallon "David, Prince de Luxembourg."

Michael Ajzenstadt

Steel band ensemble's local debut

Jerusalem Steel, the country's only steel drum band, plays a wide variety of styles from calypso to classical. Band leader Jeffrey Kowalsky and Michael Gorodinsky, Yair Saltzman, Pamela Jones, Natalie Curtis and Alexander Nemirovsky are willing to play any combination of music, anywhere. For further details call Kowalsky at 07-6276101.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Santa Fe salutes Leonard Bernstein

The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, one of the most prestigious chamber music festivals in the world, has announced details for its 26th festival (July 11-August 17, 1998).

It opens with "Bravo Lenny," a concert dedicated to the Broadway music of Leonard Bernstein and continues with varied programs of staples by Schumann, Beethoven and Bach, and lesser-known works by Verdi, Elgar, Carter, Penderecki, Bartok and others.

One intriguing work is "Impressions of Art Tatum, Chick Corea and Oscar Peterson," played by pianist Jon Kimura Parker. Other participants include Israeli violinist Carmit Zori, pianist Mark Neikrug, cellist Lynn Harrell, mezzo soprano Lorraine Hunt, the exceptional Kalichstein-Laerd-Robinson trio, and the beguiling Orion String Quartet.

For info, call the US on 505-983-2075; or fax 505-986-0251. There is also a web site at www.santafechambermusic.org.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Musical Nights of Autumn

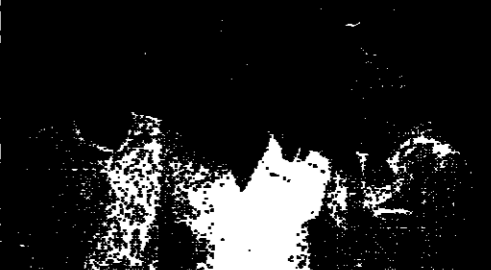
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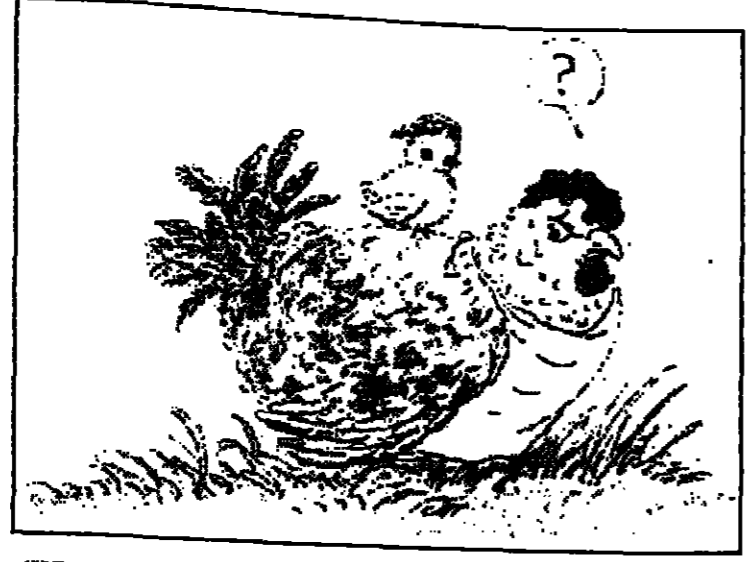
1997 The Jerusalem Post Similar but different PINCHAS LANDAU

Living symbols of hope

They were born during Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel, 20 years ago today. Allison Kaplan Sommer speaks to children – and parents – whose lives were touched by the hope of peace



Thirteen years after Sadat's visit, Eliezer Hollander (left) and Moshe Zornberg (right) marked their bar mitzva in 1990 by meeting Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny.



'What Came First, The Chicken or the Egg?'

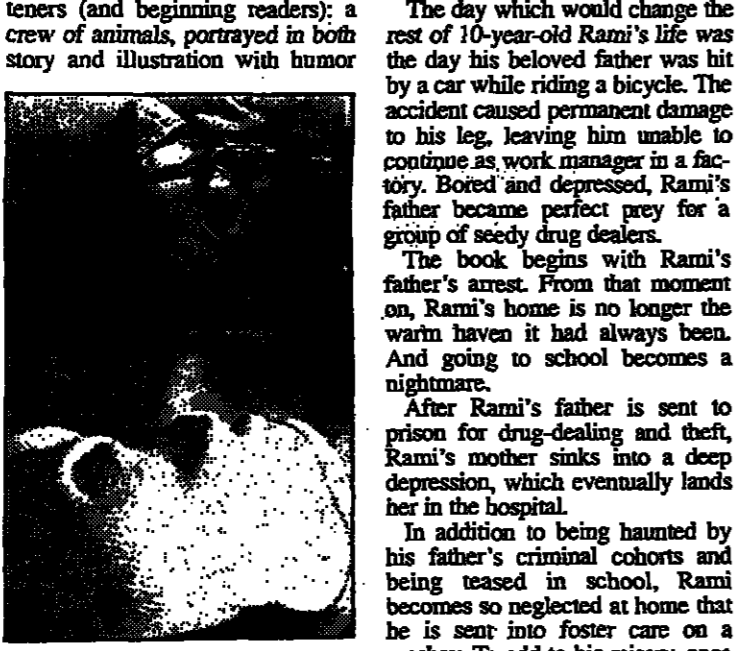
Gabi Gazit's chicken

From Aleph to Tav... A party is held in the barnyard for the new chick, whom Koka names Noah, which all of the animals attend.

By RUTHIE BLUM... MA KODEM YATZA, TARNEGO-LET O BEITZA? ("What Came First, The Chicken or the Egg?") by Gabi Gazit.

Even young children are not immune to the attraction of celebrities. And anyone who has children familiar with TV and radio star Gabi Gazit, who wrote this book, is bound to take a second look when seeing the book on shop shelves.

This is not to say that the content is of no interest. On the contrary. It has all the elements crucial to arousing the interest of young listeners (and beginning readers); a crew of animals, portrayed in both story and illustration with humor



'The Morning Dad Was Arrested'.

and charm; a simple, yet educational story line; and food for a little developmental thought. But after a second reading, one is left wondering whether the book would rank among children's books which "catch on" had it been written by an unknown author.

The story is about a hen in a barnyard who decides one day, during her morning egg-laying session, that it would be nice, for a change, not to give up her egg to the farmer for his breakfast, and instead sit on it until it hatches and becomes a "cute" chick.

This she does with the assistance of the farmer's little boy, Gal, whose chore it is to gather the eggs. While sitting on her egg to keep it safe and warm, Koka the hen begins to ponder the question of "which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Stumped by her own musings, Koka poses the question to the other animals. None seems to have an answer.

Some of us might have forgotten that today marks 20 years since the historic visit of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem, that paved the way to peace between Egypt and Israel.

But not Mike and Shoshana Gordon of Jerusalem. They have a living reminder of the euphoric day in 1977: their daughter Shlomit, who celebrated her 20th birthday yesterday. Her name – the feminine equivalent of the word "shalom," meaning peace – was chosen the day that Sadat arrived, the day after her birth, when the hope for peace burned especially brightly.

"As I was growing up, I heard the family stories about how my parents watched the events on the hospital television all day and then decided to name me Shlomit," says Gordon. "In school, friends would say that they were named

after this person or that relative. I rather liked the idea that I was named after peace. It was interesting, it was different."

Shlomit's father Mike says that Sadat coming the day after the birth of his first daughter, his second child, "felt like one miracle coming after another." Twenty years after being inspired to name his daughter for peace, Gordon doesn't regret the decision.



Shlomit Gordon: 'My parents watched the events on the hospital television all day ... and decided to name me Shlomit.' (Brian Hendler)

OTHER PARENTS who bore children 20 years ago today may not have memorialized the Sadat visit when they named their babies, but the two events remain irrevocably linked in their memories.

Yehudit Hollander, another Jerusalemite, gave birth to her son Eliezer on November 19, 1977. Aviva Zornberg, whose she befriended in Lamaze childbirth class, gave birth to her son Moshe on the same day.

"It was rather difficult for our husbands to get to and from the hospital that day, as so many roads in Jerusalem were closed. Everyone in the entire hospital was just glued to the television set. Nobody could believe what was happening," Hollander recalls. "Whenever a boy is born in Israel, your fervent hope is that he won't have to serve in the army. When Eliezer was born, that seemed like a real possibility."

Aviva's husband, Eric adds, "It was a very special, euphoric time, everyone was full of optimistic for the future, a hope for a future of peace."

The two families have stayed close, and celebrate the boys' birthdays together each year. When it came time for their bar mitzvas seven years ago, Eric sent a letter to the Egyptian Embassy telling them of the event.

pretty well. "Tourism and trade are secondary – true, they haven't panned out as we would have liked, but I am confident that they will," he says.

As a result, Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny invited the two families to the embassy for a visit, and they came, bearing gifts for the anniversary of the Sadat visit.

"We spent 45 minutes with Bassiouny; he talked about his history as an officer in the Egyptian army, he was very personable and warm," recalls Eric. "The meeting was at a time when peace was extremely cold – when [Yitzhak] Shamir was prime minister.

"In school, friends would say that they were named after this person or that relative," says 20-year-old Shlomit Gordon. "I rather liked the idea that I was named after peace."

Bassiouny said to the boys they shouldn't lose hope for peace; that he never believed he could be sitting in Israel as ambassador."

Moshe Zornberg is not celebrating his 20th birthday with his parents in Jerusalem, but in a tank somewhere

on the Syrian border. Eliezer Hollander is in a yeshiva in Nahariya, and will enter the army in March.

ERIC ZORNBERG says that after such a promising beginning, the relations with Egypt that ensued after the signing of the Camp David accords have been a letdown.

"Peace with Egypt has been a big disappointment for me. I see how the Egyptians could justify having a cold peace with Shamir, but once Rabin and Peres came in, nothing really changed," he says.

And what are the politics of the girl named for that peace? Shlomit Gordon says that the event that inspired her name was "a terrific step, and even though the situation between Israel and Egypt could be improved, I am very glad it happened."

"Shlomit, who recently completed her army service and is living with her parents and working for Bezeq, saving for her post-army travels, identifies with the peace camp, "though I think that attributing that fact to how I was named is a little overdramatic."

Her father notes, however, that their eldest child, Yehoshua, who bears the name of the famous conqueror in the Bible, has the most rightist, nationalist sentiments in the family, while their third child, Noam, whose name means pleasantness, "is somewhere in the middle" and Shlomit, named for peace, is the furthest to the left.

So, he concluded, "maybe their names did have an effect on them."

Never take sides in a sibling war



Parenting By RUTH MASON

relaxed zchut, to give the benefits of the doubt, but they consistently assume each other's intentions are bad. How can I effectively help my teenage siblings to get along with each other?

JACKIE GOLDMAN, M.S., counselor, Ramah Programs in Israel, answers:

My feeling is that you cannot play the role of judge and jury. If you choose sides, the child (who is almost an adult in this case) you don't side with in any particular argument will be angry, and the other one will wonder whom you will side with tomorrow. Neither of them will be satisfied with your taking sides.

I understand your frustration about the blaming and negativity, but unfortunately you can't force either of them to see the other in a good light. This is something they

have to work out themselves. At their age, it's time for them to take responsibility for their actions. But while you can't create facts, you can create an atmosphere.

First and foremost, don't compare them. And don't praise one in front of the other hoping you will elicit better behavior. If you set a tone for accepting each one for who they are and there is a tacit respect for each of the kids, then you will be modeling a behavior you want them to emulate. You can also try giving them a role in which they each feel, separately and together, that they have something important to contribute to the family. For example, you can ask them to prepare for Shabbat together because you won't be around that day.

And then make yourself scarce! Your situation strikes me as a metaphor for today's political situation.

What you want to do is create a climate for cooperation and communication between your children. You can try having a discussion in advance, saying this situation is coming up very often and maybe we can find a way to resolve the problem. But find out from them first if the situation bothers them. If it does bother them, you can help by encouraging them to communicate about what's happening, making your role minimal. Don't give meszar (a lecture on ethics). Let them know you respect each of them enough to know they can modify this behavior. If the behavior doesn't really bother them, they may be getting something out of the fact that it bothers you. Ask yourself: What is their relationship like when you are not around?

If they get along better when you're not around, then they could be bickering for your benefit. They need to get you involved either because they want your attention or because they are jealous of each other.

If that is the case, you can remove yourself from the situation when it happens. In general, I think you need to pull yourself out of the situation a bit. If you can't stand the arguments, leave the room, go out for a walk, visit a neighbor. You may not be able to control their behavior, but you can control the impact it has on you. And then they have nothing to gain by continuing to bicker.

This takes a tremendous amount of strength, but it's worth it. Parenting columnist's note: I recommend Siblings Without Rivalry by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish (Norton, 1987), which will be discussed in a future column.

MAP ISRAEL THE NEW ROAD ATLAS book 87 pages of superb tourist information. Detailed road maps, with even the smallest settlements, all of Israel's roads, interchanges and junctions, gas stations, campsites, etc., clearly marked. Large scale maps of Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem metropolitan areas, with main streets and major tourist attractions indicated. 63 color illustrations, showing all the interchanges on Israel's motorways. An absolute necessity for every motorist planning a trip in Israel. Softcover, spiral bound, large format. Published by MAP and MOD Publishing House.

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THE JERUSALEM POST Israel - from every point of view

Corner



By Batsheva Mink
and David Brauner

It hardly seems possible that one of our most common garden flowers once fetched the equivalent of \$150,000 for a single bulb. Today, that same bulb can be bought for as little as NIS 1.50.

If a tulip grows in your garden, you are looking at a plant by which huge fortunes were made and lost, a flower that nearly sank the economy of a nation. Hard to imagine. But to explain the famous "Tulipomania" we have to start at the beginning.

Tulips first arrived in Europe around 1551, when the Viennese ambassador to Turkey, Ogier de Besbeque, sent both seeds and bulbs back from Constantinople to Emperor Ferdinand I. In 1554 the German botanist Conrad Gesner described the tulips he saw in the garden of Johann Harwart of Augsburg in Bavaria. Twenty years later the tulip reached England. The common tulip (*Tulipa gesneriana*, named after Gesner), which was not the original strain but also a native of Asia Minor, was introduced to Europe in 1577. It is now found throughout southern Europe in its wild state.

In the 16th century the common tulip's sweetly scented scarlet flowers quickly increased in popularity, capturing the imaginations of artists and florists alike. In addition to its fragrance, an important quality for any flower, tulip blossoms were amazingly striped and streaked. The streaking was the result of a virus which caused single colors to form stripes. These "broken" types could only be propagated from seed, and so the bulbs began to command high prices. By the beginning of the 17th century, unprecedented prices were being paid. The boom peaked in Holland from 1634-37. During the tulip craze, bulbs were sold while still in the ground and resold by speculators for ever-increasing prices. One rare bulb fetched a price of 13,000 florins (\$150,000 in today's money) before the boom crashed.

Since then, the demand for tulips has never waned. The 1796 catalog of one London nurseryman contained no fewer than 700 varieties. And another Englishman, Hogg, writing in 1823, commented that "a moderate collection of choice tulips could not be purchased for a sum less than 1,000 pounds sterling!" Today, thankfully, tulips are



Tulip mania

mass-produced and reasonably priced. But despite their wide availability on the modern market, tulips are no less a treasure in the garden and the vase.

Tulips are hardy, spring-flowering, bulbous perennials belonging to the lily family (*Liliaceae*). The word "tulip" is a corruption of *tulband*, the Turkish word for turban, which the open flowers resemble in shape and color.

Tulipa is a genus of about 100 species growing in the wild. Almost every known species of tulip in nature is found in the countries bordering the Black Sea, along the Mediterranean shores and in Iran. The species hailing from Romania, Bulgaria and Russia around the Sea of Azov as well as from the Caucasus and Turkey are the most highly scented. These fragrant tulips include *T. suaveolens*, the sire of the scented, scarlet single tulip.

Israel hosts five wild species: *T. libanensis* (*T. lownei*) found on Mt. Hermon; *T. polychroma* (*T. polychroma*) found in the Negev mountains, the Ramon crater and Edom mountains; *T. hamidbar* (*T. systola*) ranging from Tiberias to the Negev and east to Jordan; *T. heharon* (*T. agensis*) ranging from the Galilee to the Negev mountains; and *T. hasharon* (*T. agensis*) and its subspecies *sharonensis*, the only wild tulip growing exclusively in Israel on the coastal light sands.

Some biblical scholars hold the Sharon tulip to be the "lily of the valley" mentioned in the Bible, while others argue that it is the "rose of Sharon."

The modern hybrids have mostly evolved from a common ancestor, the dull crimson *T. gesneriana*. From this modest beginning, tulip blossoms now come in a remark-

ably wide range of colors, from pure white and pale pastels to the primary colors including a near black, but excluding true blue.

Flowering occurs in early, mid- and late spring, so by buying different garden varieties, you can have tulips over a long season. Not all varieties are available in Israel, but every year more kinds are imported here. Choose large, firm, fat bulbs, free of soft spots, mold, bruises and cuts. Their papery skins need not be complete. Do not keep bulbs in a warm room too long before planting them. Tulips need a cool environment in order to flower successfully. If the bulbs are kept warm too long, they may not flower at all.

Because tulips require an annual warm-cool-warm temperature sequence to bloom, gardeners in mild-winter areas need to plant "precooled" bulbs. To precool, simply store the bulbs in a bag in the warmest part of your refrigerator (the vegetable drawer) for 4-8 weeks before planting. Do not place near ripening fruit, because the ethylene gas produced by the ripening process can inhibit bulbs from blooming. Cold temperatures are also necessary for natural-length (long) stems. Your warm-region garden is likely to produce short stems, if precooled does not take place. If your garden is exposed, select shorter-stemmed tulips that can better withstand strong winds. These are also excellent for raising in pots and boxes, and can be planted in between existing plants.

Now is the time for planting tulips. They prefer a "heavier" soil than do most other bulb plants. Prepare the soil, turning it over to a depth of 30 cm for drainage and aeration. Mix in compost and a

sprinkling of all-purpose fertilizer. Plant bulbs deep, about 12 cm, into the earth, and spread about 18 cm. apart. Deep planting protects against viral disease.

When growing tulips in pots indoors, avoid fluctuations in temperature. If the room temperature falls suddenly, it slows the rate at which the plant loses water by evaporation. The roots, however, continue to take in water from the warm soil that cannot be given off through the leaves. The plant cells then become waterlogged and infirm. The plant can no longer support the bloom and falls over. So careful watering, ventilation and temperature control is very important for pot-grown tulips.

When tulips are coming into flower, be sure to keep them watered. This is doubly important if an early spring heatwave hits during flowering time.

Arranging the flowers in groups of separate colors is most eye-catching. Small beds are suitable for mixed color displays. If you do not wish to devote a whole border to tulips, they can be planted between other spring-flowering plants like hyacinths or daffodils.

Tulip hybrids do not naturally multiply like narcissi or daffodils. On the whole they flower from one to three years, before fading away. The bulbs may be left in place, or dug up to make way for summer planting. Some gardeners buy new bulbs every year for a prominent display, and after flowering, transplant them to a corner for cut flowers.

The following are among the most popular garden varieties:

• The single-flowered early tulips appear in April and the early part of May. Growing 30-35 cm. high and pleasantly scented, these

are ideal for pot planting, outdoor beds and wind-swept gardens.

• Double-flowered tulips first appeared in 1664 and have been bred to resemble peonies. The blossoms are long lasting even as cut flowers. Growing 25-30 cm. high and flowering early in spring, they are suitable for both indoors and out.

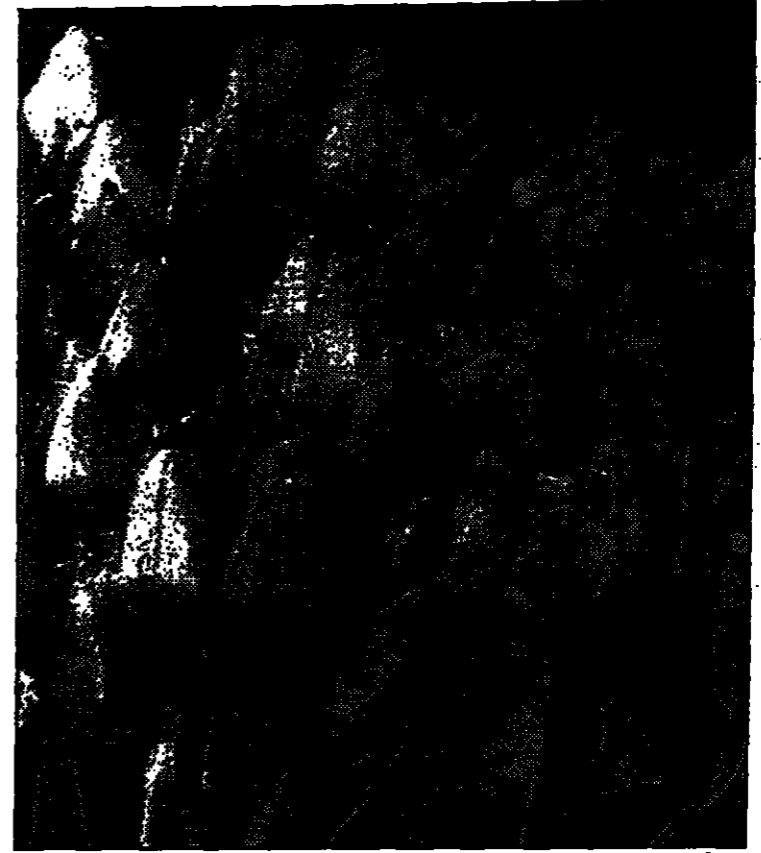
• The formal, long-stemmed Darwins are the "king" of tulips. Darwins are latecomers, introduced into Holland and northern France only in 1900. The blooms come in the full spectrum of tulip colors, and have short, rounded petals which open into large "square" cups. Reaching up 90 cm., they are the latest blooming tulips, and may continue to flower into early June.

• Cottage tulips were discovered in an old English cottage garden in 1885. They have egg-shaped blooms, highly prized for elegance and grace of form. Growing 50-75 cm. tall, these are an early spring-flowering variety, which are at their best in May.

• Lily-flowered tulips were first introduced in 1915. With their pointed, reflexed petals, these are among the most charming of tulips. A few are slightly scented. They grow to 60 cm. tall, and flower in early May.

• Parrot tulips have an orchid-like shape that makes them decorative, exotic, even bizarre. Their flamboyance makes them most effective in mixed borders, and as cut flowers, nothing is more striking. They are late flowering.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morri@ashur.cc.biu.ac.il



This is the time for planting tulips. The flower that sells for about NIS 1.50 used to fetch the equivalent of \$150,000 a bulb.

TIP OF THE WEEK

When cutting tulips for indoor enjoyment, cut the stem at a 45-degree angle, leaving a tight bud with color on the upper stem. Tulips which are cut too early will not last long, and which can cause a rash. To prolong the vase life, keep cool, change the water every three days, and do not use glass vases. Note: Do not mix daffodils and tulips in the same vase, as their stems exude substances that are harmful to each other.

Whistler mothers - and offspring

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Cavies - that is, guinea pigs - are a popular pet, especially the long-haired ones called "whistlers." They get their name from the pleasant whistling call they make, particularly when they are excited, such as when someone they know comes near or when feeding time rolls around. They are admired for their beautiful coats - long silky fur sometimes straight and occasionally wavy or slightly curly. If a whistler is in good condition the pelt, which can be one of several colors, will be shiny and soft. Any ailment or debilitating condition will manifest itself in the appearance of the pelt. It may become dry, coarse, or begin to shed profusely.

Although whistlers are clean animals, with almost no offensive odors, the long hair is most attractive if regularly groomed. For this purpose, a fairly soft hairbrush is excellent. Most whistlers, if gently handled, actually love the grooming process, for they are very affectionate animals. It is not necessary to wash a whistler but if its room is very warm, rubbing a damp cloth over the fur will remove dust from the pelt and help keep it shiny. Be careful not to rub too hard! After using the damp cloth, dry the pet with a soft towel so it doesn't get a chill.

If the animals are properly fed, their droppings are uniformly firm, so there is usually no problem of their soiling their fur. But if this should happen, cleanse the pet with warm water and then dry it. If a whistler is allowed to run about the house, it might come in contact with something oily that soils the fur. You can remove this by applying talc or corn starch and brushing it out.

Since most pet whistlers usually spend their time on a soft surface and never get to dig or scratch at firmer surfaces, you will be required to trim their toenails from

time to time. Use a special trimmer, available at pet shops, which cuts the nail all around with one snip rather than a flat cut such as made with scissors. Trim only the tip of the nail so there is no danger of cutting into a sensitive area where blood vessels and nerves are found.

Feeding your pet the right food is the true secret to raising healthy, happy whistlers. The cavy is one of the few animals aside from primates - i.e., monkeys, apes and humans - that does not produce its own vitamin C and must have this essential component in its diet every day. Otherwise, the animal will develop sore gums, become lethargic, and lose most of its fur. A severe lack of vitamin C can even kill it. To avoid this, feed your pet a good commercial pellet especially designed for cavies, along with a liberal diet of fresh green vegetables, dried whole-grain bread and some fruits and tomatoes every day. Avoid feeding them cakes, sweets, raw potatoes and cooked foods.

With this sort of care, whistlers can be happy, lovable pets and will probably present you with some delightful little whistlers as well.



Long-haired guinea pigs called "whistlers" get their name from the pleasant whistling call they make.

(Ariel Jerolimski)

Sean Penn's family affair
in tomorrow's
Weekender

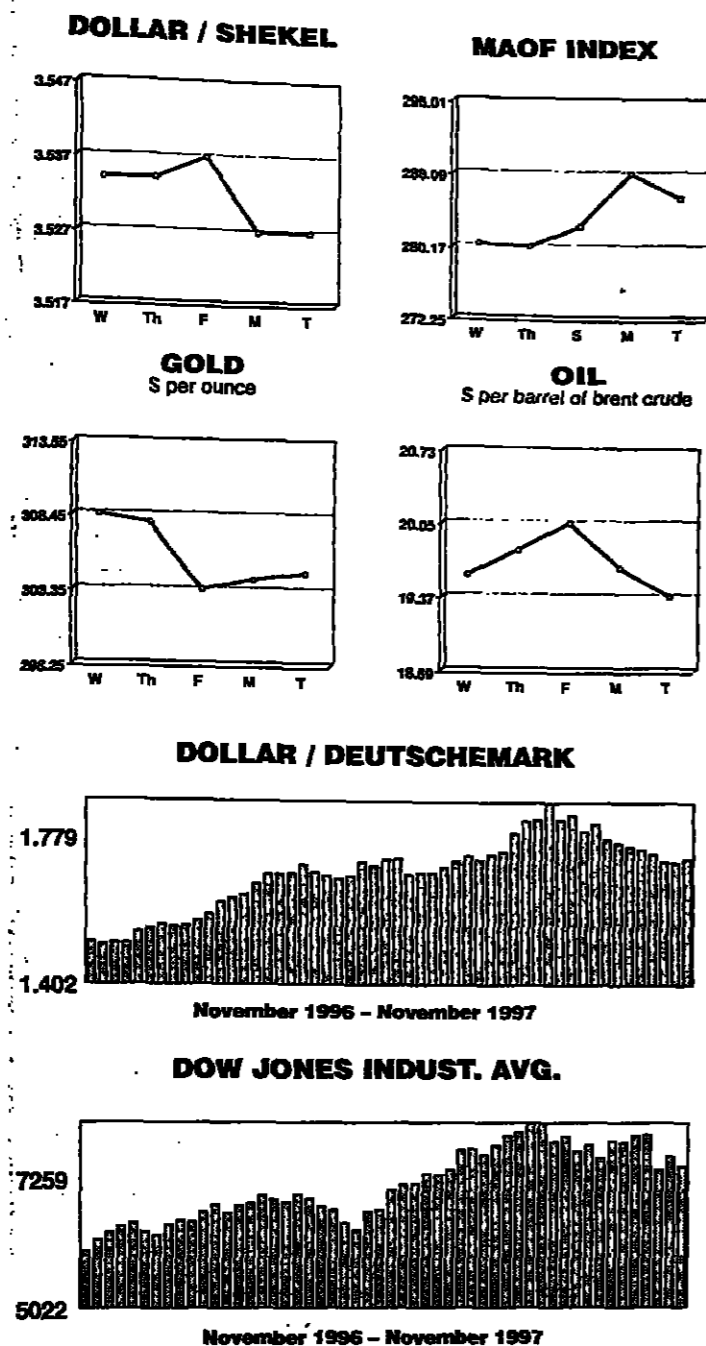
مركزنا للتطوير

Wednesday,
November 19, 1997

BUSINESS & FINANCE

MARKETS

in brief



Peres to start regional development fund

US Overseas Private Investment Corp. to create \$60m. fund for PA, Jordan

By STEVE RODAN
and news agencies

DOHA, Qatar - Former prime minister Shimon Peres said yesterday he is establishing what he hopes will be a multibillion dollar fund for investment in high technology in the Middle East.

Peres said his proposal is for multinational companies to allocate 0.1 percent of their sales revenues to the Peres Peace Center for private sector high-tech projects in agriculture, medicine and telecommunications. The proposal has been raised with chairmen of leading companies as well as international leaders. He said he plans to raise the issue on Friday

during his meeting in Washington with US President Bill Clinton.

The former prime minister said he is urging companies to use part of their huge profits to help their consumers offset the losses from government cuts in social services.

"Everything that makes money has been privatized and everything that costs money is being phased out," Peres said.

Peres said he did not have a target figure for the fund but he expected it to exceed the \$2.4 billion pledged by various countries to the Palestinian Authority in 1993.

The center, directed by former Foreign Ministry director-general Uri Savir, is also launching another

fund for high technology. This \$100 million fund is funded by the Israelis and Palestinians, who have each contributed 30 percent and the Japanese and the Europeans, who are giving another 30 percent. The final 10 percent is from the World Bank.

This fund is meant to promote Arab-Israeli private joint ventures.

Peres said he has also convinced the chairman of the Marconi Corp. to donate \$5 million for a meeting center for Palestinians and Israelis. A site for the building is now being sought.

Peres refused to discuss political developments in Israel and suggested several times that he is no longer interested in being

involved in Israeli political life. "I have no desire to go into politics," he said. "Please spare me this."

Meanwhile, the US Overseas Private Investment Corp. signed an agreement on Monday to create a \$60 million equity fund for investments in Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan. The fund will be managed by Capital Investment Corp. of McLean, Virginia, and investments will include manufacturing and services-oriented companies.

Once fully capitalized, the fund will focus on Israeli-Palestinian joint ventures - 60 percent in Gaza and the West Bank and the remaining 40% in Jordan, according to a statement released today by OPIC.

Already in the region, and supported by OPIC, are the Inter-Arab Fund of \$45 million; a \$200 million fund for investments in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco; and the \$40 million Israel Growth Fund for investments in telecommunications, high technology, and other consumer projects.

"The signing of this protocol marks an important milestone in the OPIC's support of this new fund for the Middle East," said George Munoz, president and chief executive officer, in a statement.

OPIC provides insurance coverage to companies that do business outside the US. It earned \$205 million last year, according to the US Treasury Department.



Koreans nix financial reforms
South Korean riot police in Seoul pass bankers protesting proposed financial reforms yesterday. The parliament failed to pass the reform legislation, and speculation is that Korea may ask for assistance from the International Monetary Fund. (Reuters)

Government explores Omani gas potential

By STEVE RODAN

DOHA, Qatar - Israel is examining the prospect of negotiating with Oman for the supply of natural gas, an energy source that the Gulf sheikdom is beginning to explore, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

An Israeli government representative plans on traveling to Muscat to hold talks with Omani officials on launching negotiations for a supply of natural gas, once their offshore fields are developed.

Israel has already renewed its talks with Qatar over a natural gas deal. But officials said that the negotiations will have to be with the Enron Corp., the US firm that is developing Qatar's lucrative offshore fields.

"In the past, we have been shy with pursuing these talks with Enron because we thought we never could afford this," an official source said.

The negotiations with Oman are meant to allow Israel to pursue several avenues with potential suppliers. So far, Israel has been discussing the supply of natural gas with Russia and Egypt.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres met with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad Althani yesterday and discussed several private projects with Qatar to be conducted through his new peace center. These included development of alternative energy and transportation.

Industry sources said that of the proposals, Israel is considering the Egyptian offer of a natural gas pipeline through the Sinai is the most feasible. But the sources said Israel remains uncertain over the direction of those negotiations and prefers to explore different options.

Enron is still interested in resuming talks with Israel, officials said. Enron chairman Rebecca Mark said the growing trend is for buyers to purchase natural gas from private gas producers rather than governments. She said this is true in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and Israel.

Government sells its last shares in Koor

The government has sold its last shares in Koor Industries for NIS 13.654 million, Accountant General Shai Talmon said yesterday.

The sales took place in recent months on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, with shares being purchased by domestic and foreign investors. A total of 35,784 shares were sold at an average 2.5 percent above their closing value. *David Harris*

MKs okay 2% amona hike for minimum payers

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved a two percent municipal property tax (*arnona*) increase despite an attempt by opposition MKs to block the move.

The increase will only apply to those paying the minimum tax and is in addition to the across-the-board 13.9% rise approved on Monday.

Local authorities must impose the 2% increase plus the first 8.9% rise of the 13.9%, with the remaining 5% at the discretion of each municipality. *David Harris*

While diplomats attempt to resolve trade crisis

Customs chief says EU charges of violations have 'absolutely no basis'

By DAVID HARRIS

The European Union warning to importers that Israeli products may violate free-trade stipulations is "a false notice with absolutely no basis," Customs and VAT Director Moti Ayalon charged yesterday.

Speaking at the Knesset Economics Committee, Ayalon said talks between Jerusalem and Brussels would take place within the next fortnight in an attempt to resolve the trade dispute that began with Israeli orange juice exports but in recent days has spread across the gamut of trade with the EU.

"Israel as a state has committed no crime," said Ayalon. "If I find anything there will be a criminal investigation."

EU officials have now said they are satisfied that Israeli manufacturers are no longer mixing Brazilian oranges with domestic

produce before exporting orange juice to Europe. However, senior industry representatives deny the practice was ever adopted.

The EU's objection is based on the fact that it has no free trade agreement with Brazil, and Israeli exporters are taking advantage of the country's FTA with Brussels.

The EU is asking to inspect Israel's books regarding previous years, but yesterday a high-ranking industry and Trade Ministry official said it would be virtually impossible to confirm anything.

"It would be very difficult to make all the relevant checks because 10 or so (juice-producing) factories have closed," said Foreign Trade Administration Deputy Director Gabriella Cohen.

"The point was driven home by fruit-juice industry representative Yishai Veltman, who said industry sales have shrunk from \$300 million a year in 1990 to \$250m. last year. While much of that decline

follows a worldwide pattern, Veltman said it is also explained in part by the attempts of some citrus-producing nations, such as Spain, Italy, Greece, Morocco and Cyprus, to block Israel's access to European markets.

The orange juice issue is only a small part of a wider picture, said Cohen. The EU distinguishes between the Palestinian Authority and Israel for political reasons, she claimed.

"The EU is far from balanced in trading with us," alleged Export Institute Director General Amir Hayek, who said 62 percent of Israel's trade deficit is with the EU.

The issuance of the EU warning to importers could result either in "no damage or the complete refusal of European importers to purchase Israeli goods," according to a European diplomat.

Meanwhile, *The New York Times* yesterday reported that the Clinton

administration said it would punish an Israeli owned citrus company "for doing business in Cuba on land expropriated from Americans."

The US State Department has reportedly sent a letter to the BM Group last week saying company executives and their families would be barred from entering the US unless they provide documentation within 45 days showing they had not broken the law.

Congress passed a law in 1996 which enables the government to impose penalties on foreign companies investing in Cuban property deemed to have been seized following Fidel Castro's rise to power in 1959.

The EU is threatening to challenge this law via the World Trade Organization.

"Israel supports the policy of the American government in regards to Cuba," an Israeli official told *The Times*.

Farmers: Mekorot inflating prices

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The water costs presented by Mekorot to the Treasury are inflated several times above the actual price, Yoram Tamari, the water organizer in the Agricultural Center, said Monday.

The economic department of the Agriculture Center, the farmers' umbrella planning organization, bases its claim on a comparison between the costs of Mekorot and those presented by private water suppliers and the Jewish National Fund.

Tamari said the actual price of the water, paid by private users and the agriculture industry, should be about 30 percent lower. He added that Mekorot intends to raise the price of water by 19.7% in 1998.

Mekorot chairman Doron Grouper denied the report and said that water prices are determined by the government and receive the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee and are also supervised by the water commissioner.

The company added that the prices it charges for drinking water are lower than the prices charged by similar companies abroad.

Central bank approves Internet banking services

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Banks Supervisor Zeev Abeles said yesterday banks would be allowed to supply some banking services over the Internet.

In the first stage, approval would be limited to allowing clients to receive information on their accounts through the Internet. In the future, Abeles intends to allow more services, such as letting bank customers submit orders from their home computers on the web. The banks would be allowed to offer such services only to veteran clients. The banks would be prohibited from opening new accounts through the Internet.

The central bank said approval was given only after it considered the security issues and after consulting an international firm specializing in Internet security.

International banks already offer banking services via the Internet but with limitations due to security problems. All the big local banks have their own home

pages on the web and have been waiting for approval to start offering online services.

A First International Bank of Israel spokeswoman said the bank would offer services immediately after receiving approval.

Industry sources say it is too early to estimate if online banking would revolutionize the banking industry. The number of US consumers able to access their checking accounts online is estimated at 2.5 million, and forecasts estimate that another 3.4 million would join this year.

The US Wells Fargo Bank, considered a leading provider of online banking services, said last December that its online banking base had grown from 20,000 to 270,000 users in 18 months. The bank added it expects to have two million users within five years.

Idith Lusky, executive vice president for private banking at Bank Hapoalim, said the bank is ready to start providing the services and that all security problems have been solved by an outside specialist.

FDA nixes TranScan application

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The US Food and Drug Administration voted earlier this week not to approve TranScan Research & Development's T-scan 2000 device, which is designed to determine if a breast mass is malignant or benign.

The FDA's radiological devices panel said in its decision that the Migdal Ha'emek-based company did not sufficiently identify the target population for the T-scan 2000, and this could cause some women not getting life-saving biopsies.

In trials, T-scan only succeeded in effectively screening 87 percent of women who would otherwise need a biopsy.

TranScan said it will now conduct additional research and plans to resubmit its application again.

"This is new technology and it is too difficult to get approval for it," said Ami Ofek, director-general of RSL Electronics, a partner in the company.

Analysts said the FDA's rejection of the device is a devastating blow for a start-up since it bars products from the multi-million-dollar US market. "When the FDA delays an application that's one thing, but being stopped is a whole other issue," said Debbie Kodish, a pharmaceutical analyst at Zannex securities. "They will be scrutinized a lot more next time because this happened already."

RSL Electronics and Medmax of the US and Star and Atlas of Germany have invested \$5 million in developing T-scan 2000.

The company currently sells the device in Italy, France and Korea.

THE WEEK

With the government's decision to sell its last shares in Koor Industries, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange saw a record volume of trading yesterday. A total of 35,784 shares were sold at an average 2.5 percent above their closing value. *David Harris*

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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GRILL JAY CASIMAN



Everyone took a big bite out of the burger at Burger Ranch's recent 25th anniversary bash at Tel Aviv Port. Some 2,500 employees and franchisees from all 70 Israeli Burger Ranch branches...

Millets Leisure Shops P.C. For the past 11 years, he has worked as a business consultant. In his present position, his responsibilities are split between Blue Square and Market and Spencer.

The Bezeq board has announced the appointment of Eitan Eichenbaum as the company's vice president for finance and economics. An economist by profession, Eichenbaum studied economics at Tel Aviv University. He has held key positions in several leading Israeli companies.

Kati Zamir has been appointed marketing manager of the tourism division of Kibbutz Ayelet Hashachar. Zamir, 36, has a BA in psychology and anthropology. Prior to taking on her present position, she worked for seven years in the sales division of Tower Asia.

Ruth Peled, general manager of P.L.D. Finance Consultants, has been appointed the Israeli representative for the Austrian Volksbank. Her clients include some of Israel's most affluent companies.

Italian-born Carlo Gross, 37, who has been living in Israel since 1974, is now representing his native land here. Gross has been appointed Italian honorary consul to the north of Israel, who also represents Italian tourist interests in Israel.

Julian Millett, a new immigrant from the United Kingdom, has been appointed Israel's managing director for Marks and Spencer. Millett, 49, has had wide-ranging retail experience and has been especially involved in opening 100 shops. He was employed at Selfridges and Harrod's, and for a long period was managing director of the 150-branch chain of

A sinking feeling

Despite optimistic forecasts, market volatility continued last week, and with a worsening situation in the Far East, the TASE seems poised to fall even further

By NEIL COHEN

When I wrote last week's column I thought things were calming down a little and intended not to write another portfolio piece this week. I did not expect the volatility to continue to quite the same extent, nor the TASE to sink 5.94 percent in a week.

I'm not panicking (I promise I'm not), but I don't like the feel of this market. I think things are getting worse in the Far East, in the US and inevitably also here. We've got a lot of gains to protect and if this market is going to fall apart I want to get into the downturn with all the hatches battened and plenty of cash.

The Bezeq board has announced the appointment of Eitan Eichenbaum as the company's vice president for finance and economics.

national financial markets. I think that in a situation of considerable uncertainty one needs to go over every holding in one's portfolio and review the case for owning it. If that case still holds, is the stock at a price at which we would be buying it now if we didn't own it already.

This said, sometimes you just feel you own enough of a stock. You like it, but you don't want to own infinite quantities of it. In this case, you should be prepared to hold on to it even after it falls to a price below what you paid for it.

PERSONAL FINANCE

obvious bargain is Tower Semi. I'm glad we lightened our position over time, taking very nice profits, and would be buying more now as I think the market has panicked and knocked the stock to a level of excessive undervaluation.

Although in general, convertible bonds are a low downside way to play the market, a couple of our convertibles do have more risk than I would like. The Leumi Mortgage Bank bonds are getting close to maturity and trade at a small premium to the redemption value.

me a little nervous is Harel Hamishmar. I think the company is a solid, well-run insurance franchise, and the stock is not expensive. However, driven in part by some of the corporate deals in the sector - especially the Generali purchase of Leumi Insurance (what used to be known as Migdal) - insurance stocks have done very well over the past year, but of late have begun to run out of steam.

The Harel Hamishmar convertible has been a great proxy for the stock, running up in parallel with it. But the premium to redemption value makes me a little nervous, though I like the underlying stock. So I am selling our entire position in the convertible, at a hefty profit I might add.

Electronics holding has performed well, and I think its prospects have improved, in particular as things seem to be looking up at Sciez. However, the stock has a lot of exposure to Wall Street, so I am taking some more profit out of the holding, selling one-third of the position.

In downturns, small illiquid stocks tend to be hit particularly hard. Top Image Systems has appreciated nicely in the short time since we bought it (though it has been higher). However, this is a small stock of a small company, and I think discretion is the better part of valor in what is quite a speculative situation so I am taking the money and running, closing out the whole position.

We now have over 25% of the conservative portfolio and 27% of the aggressive in cash. I will continue to actively review the portfolios while also scouting for compelling opportunities, though at this stage the emphasis will be on taking advantage of rebounds to prune the portfolios rather than falls to add to them.

The writer works in the investment industry and may hold positions in securities mentioned in the column. This column should not be taken as advice to buy, sell or continue to hold any securities and anyone acting on the advice of this column does so at his or her own risk.

NEIL'S PORTFOLIO table with columns for No. of shares, Cost/share, Total cost, Current price, and Current value. Includes sections for Conservative, Aggressive, and Defensive portfolios.

Sabena to buy Airbus planes for \$1.4b.

Sabena SA said it will buy 34 aircraft worth about \$1.4 billion from Airbus Industries in a blow to the European planemaker's rival, Boeing Co., which had been the Belgian national airline's primary supplier.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table listing various mutual funds, company bonds, foreign currency, and state bonds with columns for fund name, unit cost, redemption price, monthly yield, and 1997 yield.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

...and with a ... even further

Electronics holding has performed well, and I think its prospects are improved, in particular as the company is looking up at the expansion to Wall Street, so I am taking some more profit out of the position.

...buy Airbus for \$1.4b.

...buy Airbus for \$1.4b.

MISHTANIM

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, LAST CHANGE. Lists various stock prices and changes.

REZEF

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, LAST CHANGE. Lists various stock prices and changes.

KARAM

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TASE drops following global market volatility

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Includes Tase, Tel Aviv, and various international indices like Nikkei and Dow Jones.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists exchange rates for various countries and currencies.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists New York market indices like DJ Industrials and S&P 500.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists other market indices like FTSE 100 and Nikkei.

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks dropped as investors remained wary of continued volatility on world markets and looked past third-quarter earnings reports that met expectations.

Europe

UK stocks fell amid waning confidence that the economic turmoil in Asia and a month-long rout in global equities has petered out.

STOCKS

Maof 285.41 v 0.93% Dow Jones 7650 v 0.61% FTSE 4845.4 v 0.44% Nikkei 16726 v 2.72%

Wall Street

Stocks pulled back modestly yesterday after a three-session romp that had put the market at its highest level since before last month's steep downturn.

Asia

Japanese stocks rose for a second day, paced by banks such as Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd., after Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said he may

Yen little changed on concern Japan may sell dollars

The dollar was little changed against the yen as concern authorities in Japan might sell the US currency outweighed disappointment with a Japanese plan to promote economic growth.

LONDON

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists London market data.

PARIS

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists Paris market data.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists Frankfurt market data.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists US commodity prices.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists spot market metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists New York metal futures prices.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists London metal fix prices.

US DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY

Lawrence Summers on Monday said he shares concerns about the yen. Traders took the remarks as signs Japan might sell dollars if the US currency rises too far.

ALUMINUM FALLS AS PRODUCERS BOOST OUTPUT

Aluminum fell after two producers announced plans to boost output. Reynolds Metals Co. said it will restart an idled Oregon smelter and Alcoa World Alumina said it will spend \$193 million to upgrade its Wagerup refinery in Australia.

PRECIOUS METALS

Gold prices were little changed in inter-bank trading. Yesterday the Bank of Portugal said it "manages" its gold reserves like any other asset, though it hasn't sold any.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists commodity prices like gold and crude oil.

OIL

Brent crude oil futures in London rose Monday's 3.3% fall on the back of easing Iraq-U.S. tensions.

OTHERS

Coffee fell for the third time in four days after the Green Coffee Association reported that stockpiles held by US roasters fell by less than expected.

BONDS

Table with columns LAST CHANGE and Ticker symbols. Lists bond prices.

US 30-year T-bill yield

6.08 v 0.1% LLC, which will sell as much as \$3.1 billion of bonds backed by a portion of consumers' electricity bills.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 20.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 200.08 per line, including VAT, per month.

US BONDS DIP AS CPI MEETS ESTIMATES

US bonds fell after a report showing consumer prices rose as much as expected last month provided little incentive to buy Treasury securities with yields near 21-month lows.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Wednesday, November 19 EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Arnona, 9 Lab Yefeh, 673-1901; Beitans, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuaifat, Shuaifat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldeewa, Herzl's Gate, 829-5058.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Lists interest rates for various currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of Commstock Trading Ltd.

Table with columns Currency basket, U.S. dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, etc. Lists exchange rates.

US DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY

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PRECIOUS METALS

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COMMODITIES

Gold \$304.65 v 0.8% Crude Oil \$19.42 v 0.04% CRR 241.18 v 0.44%

OIL

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OTHERS

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Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page with text like 'Diamond first sight', 'SPECIAL', and 'We want your US'.

Inside

NBA fashion police swoop on Blazers

Page 18

Fans riot as Hapoel Beersheba sale falls through

Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Dolphins beat Bills, tie for AFC East lead

MIAMI (AP) - The Buffalo Bills stayed close to the Miami Dolphins until Troy Drayton went out for a pass.

The wide-open tight end's 30-yard touchdown reception with 5:11 remaining Monday night gave the Dolphins some breathing room in a 30-13 victory.

Miami led only 16-13 when Dan Marino found Drayton open at the 10-yard line, some 15 yards from the nearest defender.

Following the score, the Dolphins stopped Buffalo on downs and added an insurance touchdown on Karim Abdul-Jabbar's 1-yard run.

A halftime ceremony honored Miami's 17-0 season 25 years ago, and the Dolphins were so inspired by the tribute that they nearly blew a 13-0 lead.

But Miami (7-4) held on despite two second-half turnovers and moved into a first-place tie with the New York Jets in the AFC East. The Dolphins hold the tiebreaker advantage over New York by virtue of sweeping their two-game series.

The Bills (5-6) dropped two games back. They've lost three of their past four games.

Buffalo's punchless offense has scored more than one touchdown only once in six games. Quarterback Todd Collins, who returned to the lineup after being benched for two games in favor of Alex Van Pelt, completed 19 of 37 passes for 152 yards.

Olindo Mare kicked field goals of 37, 30 and 35 yards for Miami. The Dolphins, who failed to score a touchdown in a 9-6 loss at Buffalo earlier in November, this time raced to a 13-0 lead after 22 minutes.

Buffalo's offense finally got untracked on the first possession of the second half. The Bills converted two third-and-long situations to set up a 1-yard touchdown run by Derrick Holmes.

Steve Christie's 36-yard field goal made the score 16-10.

After Steve Tasker recovered Irving Spikes' fumble on the ensuing kickoff, Christie hit a 24-yard field goal.

Miami regained the momentum on Drayton's

score to cap a 61-yard drive. On second-and-11, he ran past linebacker Bryce Paup, whose attention was elsewhere. No one in the secondary was in Drayton's vicinity, and as he trotted across the goal line with the reception, Paup stretched out his arms in disbelief.

The blown coverage wasn't Buffalo's only mistake. The Bills, who have 18 more turnovers than takeaways this season, gave the ball up twice in their territory, and both mistakes led to field goals.

George Teague made a leaping interception on a pass by Collins, who was hit as he threw by Jason Taylor. The turnover led to Mare's 30-yard field goal for a 13-0 lead.

Jason Taylor recovered Antowain Smith's fumble at the Buffalo 24, and three plays later Mare banked a 35-yard field goal off the right upright to put Miami ahead 16-7.

An 11-play, 90-yard touchdown drive gave Miami a 10-0 lead in the second period. Marino capped the march with a 3-yard touchdown pass to rookie Ed Perry, his first NFL score.



OVER AND ABOVE - Miami's Ed Perry catches a pass as Buffalo's Jeff Burris defends.

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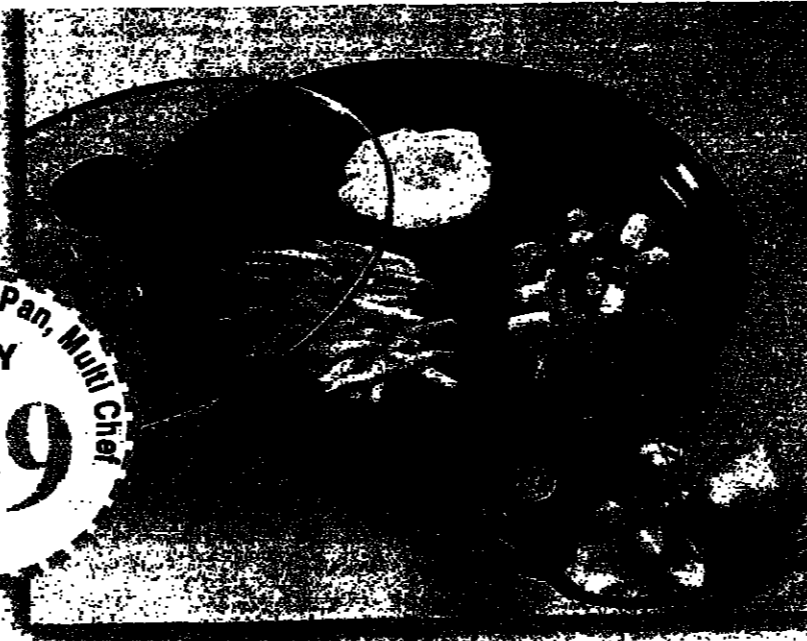
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Grasshoppers coach moves to Spurs

ZURICH (AP) - Christian Gross is to leave Grasshoppers Zurich for Tottenham, fueling speculation that Gerry Francis may be leaving the north London club.

Grasshoppers president Romano Spadaro held a news conference yesterday to say that 43-year-old Gross would take Grasshoppers' assistant coach Fritz Schmid with him to White Hart Lane.

Such a move would appear to leave no room for Francis, who has been under fire this season after a poor start. Spurs are 16th in the 20-club premier league, only one point above the relegation zone.

Gross has guided Grasshoppers - Switzerland's most successful team - to the Champions League twice, the Cupwinner's Cup once and the UEFA Cup once. He started his soccer career with the Zurich team and played with mainly Swiss clubs apart from a couple of seasons with Bochum in the Bundesliga. He's been a coach since 1988, and at Grasshoppers since 1993.

The club made a first round exit from the UEFA Cup this season, spurring Gross to look for a change, even though Grasshoppers is currently Swiss league leader.

Spadaro said that Gross approached him ten days ago and asked to be released from his contract, due to expire next summer.

Spadaro had turned down three previous requests.

"This time I couldn't refuse his request because one of the top clubs in London has a higher caliber than ours," Spadaro said.

Borussia Muenchengladbach, Hamburger SV or a Japanese club, which have all tried to get our trainer in the past two years," Spadaro said.

Spadaro said Gross was in London for discussions and would be given an 18-month contract with Spurs.

Gross will link up with former Grasshoppers defender Ramon Vega, who joined Spurs earlier this season, and becomes the third non-British coach in London. Dutch star Ruud Gullit is in charge at Chelsea and former Monaco coach Arsene Wenger is at Arsenal.

If Francis, who played for England 12 times, is to leave Tottenham after three seasons, he may return to the club he left, division one Queens Park Rangers. QPR fired its management team of Stuart Houston and Bruce Rioch last week.

For Grasshoppers, assistant coach Hanspeter Latour will take over on a temporary basis. Favorite as successor is Rolf Fringer, who was fired as Swiss national coach in October after the team missed qualifying for the World Cup finals next year in France.

Tauziat upsets Coetzer at women's season finale

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Nathalie Tauziat had not won a match in four previous trips to the WTA Tour's season-ending championships and had never beaten Amanda Coetzer in four prior meetings. Both streaks ended Monday.

The fourth-seeded Coetzer ran into a red-hot Tauziat and was overrun by the 14th-ranked Frenchwoman 6-3 6-3 in a swift 61 minutes on opening night at the Chase Championships.

The diminutive South African had been something of a giant killer this year with huge wins over Steffi Graf and Martina Hingis. But Tauziat, who reached the final of two of her last three tournaments, cut Coetzer back down to her 5-foot-2 size with extremely aggressive net play.

"It's disappointing," said Coetzer. "I think I got a little excited when I had a good end to the season."

"I really felt like this could be the one time I could come into the championships and do well here, but unfortunately it didn't go that way," said Coetzer, who qualified for the fifth consecutive year but has never fared well here.

While the embarrassingly small crowd at Madison Square Garden seemed surprised by the result, Tauziat insisted she was not.

"I've played really well for one month. I beat some top players two weeks ago, (Jana) Novotna and (Iva) Majoli. If I play really well my

game, I know I can beat anybody," said Tauziat, who at 30 is the senior member of the elite 16-player field.

Earlier Monday, seventh seed Mary Pierce of France spoiled the Chase Championships debut of 17th-ranked Sabine Appelmans of Belgium with a 6-3 6-4 victory.

But eighth seed Iana Spirlea of Romania narrowly prevented a French sweep on opening night by holding off 13th-ranked Sandrine Testud 6-3 5-7 6-4.

After splitting sets, Spirlea finally came up with the crucial break in the ninth game of the decider for a 5-4 lead and calmly served out the match before a handful of remaining diehard fans.

Pierce served exceptionally well, punting 72 percent of her first serves in play and saving the only two break points she faced, to advance to the quarter-finals.

"This evening it was a little easier than I expected," admitted Pierce, who needed one service break in each set to send Appelmans off on her honeymoon.

The attractive 25-year-old was married September 13 and kept putting off her honeymoon as she worked to qualify for this tournament. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a one-night stand here.

"We are thinking of going to South Africa. Amanda (Coetzer) already gave me some tips on where to go."

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